

NWMISSOURIAN

12/7/06

V81/N15

CONVERGING CAMPUS & COMMUNITY

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WEEKENDWEATHER

FRIDAY
HI 42
LO 23

SATURDAY
HI 49
LO 29

SUNDAY
HI 50
LO 27

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Alcoholics Anonymous meetings are held Mondays at 6 p.m. at the Methodist Church Annex.

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

The third Tuesday of every month a cancer support group is held at Laura Street Baptist Church. Call 582-8874 for more information.

TODAY

Food court Italian buffet.

Thursdays at the Union, 10 p.m.

FRIDAY

Education majors: Spring 2007 student teachers meet with University supervisors, 3 p.m., Brown Hall

Art Show and Pottery Sale, 4 to 8 p.m., Fine Arts Building

Yuletide Feast, 6:30 p.m., Union Ballroom

John Louder painting exhibit closes

SATURDAY

Missouri Academy Preview Day

Women's and men's basketball at Southwest Baptist, Bolivar

SUNDAY

Wesley Center Luminary Lights of Car, 8 p.m.

APO Children's Show, 2 p.m. Mary Linn Performing Arts Center.

HEARTLAND VIEW

The new Heartland View Web site is up and running. Check it out at Heartlandview.com

KNWT CHANNEL 8

PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE

Monday-Thursday
7 p.m. Etc.
7:30 p.m. Inside Northwest
8 p.m. Bearcat Update
8:30 p.m. Bearcat Idol

nwmissourianews.com

Visit the web for:

To view a multi-media package on car and winter safety by NwMissourianews.com reporter Kyle Martin.

A full Bearcat semi-final wrap-up after Sunday's game against Bloomsburg.

—WINTER SAFETY

Take caution amid cold months

Lindsay Jacobs
Chief Reporter

Although Maryville dodged snow storms last week, the weather served as a reminder for winter precautions everyone should take.

Many local officials say preparation is the key.

First of all, vehicle safety is an important consideration this winter.

A vehicle should be inspected by an authorized mechanic before the temperature dips below freezing

said Marshall Shell, owner of Shell's Service. However, vehicles can still be inspected.

"It's not too late now, you've got a lot of winter left," Shell said.

A mechanic should check plugs, wires, windshield wipers, anti-freeze, tires, hoses and fans. Anything a person notices during the summer will get worse in the winter, he said.

If a battery is older than four years it needs to be replaced or checked. If the battery does go dead it's important to charge it right away to is doesn't freeze because it will be

ruined.

Fuel levels should be kept high during the winter months because it keeps the fuel pump in good working condition, and it will allow a car to run for awhile if it gets stranded. Branded gasoline should be used over non-branded gasoline during winter, Shell said, because branded gasoline is less likely to get water in it.

It's also important to have a good spare tire, jumper cables, a blanket and flairs in a vehicle.

If a person added water to their

radiator during the summer they should remove the water, and make sure they have a windshield washer fluid that won't freeze, Shell said.

On an icy or snowy day Shell said driving speeds should be lowered by 25 percent.

"Just be careful until you get used to the road," Shell said.

But even all the car precautions can't prevent some accidents if the roads aren't maintained.

As a result, the city of Maryville has four plows, two road graters and two salt spreaders that also

have plows on them. There are nine trained, and there are people in other departments who are also trained to use the equipment.

The city doesn't budget a fixed amount for winter street clean up, the funds come from the \$55,000 street maintenance budget that is used for all street projects during the year.

The city puts molasses-coated salt on icy streets, said Greg Decker, director of Public Works.

Members of Public Works use

see **CAUTION** on A6



MARYVILLE'S WONDERLAND



photos by kelle white | photography editor

MARYVILLE RESIDENT Margaret Palmer has acquired more than 500 snowmen for her house and lawn over the years. People often give them to her as gifts because they know how much she loves them. Each year, her family helps place them around the house.

Resident spends many years collecting more than 500 snowmen

Tara Adkins
Features Editor

With a corncob pipe and a button nose and two eyes made out of coal, Frosty the Snowman transforms into multiple shapes and sizes in the collection of one Maryville woman.

Margaret Palmer's accumulation of over 500 snowmen fills her small house with smiles and rosy cheeks each holiday season.

"I've never seen a sad one and since I love snow, I just love snowmen and their happy and cute little faces," Palmer said.

After the turkey leftovers from Thanksgiving are gone, everyone in the Palmer family knows it's time to put out the snowmen. Through the help of her daughter, grandchildren and husband, the snowmen are carefully placed throughout the house within four to five days.

see **SNOWMEN** on A6



Not all students celebrate Christmas

Andrea James, Sarah Dulinsky
Missourian Reporters

Northwest student Fazil Khaja is going to his brother's wedding over winter break.

This is the time of year that Khaja and his friends and family can all get together and see each other after four months of classes and homework.

Khaja doesn't celebrate Christmas; he is Muslim and instead celebrates the Festival of Eid-ul-Fitr in October.

Eid-ul-Fitr celebrates the end of a month long fast, according to Islaam.org.

"Before Eid we have to fast sunrise to sunset for a whole month. We can't

drink water, eat food or even swallow spit," Khaja said.

Muslims celebrate Eid in the 10th month of the Islamic calendar. This festival is a time when Muslims celebrate gratitude for Allah and practice love, sympathy and concern for others.

Khaja uses his winter break to go home and spend time with his family and friends.

"I am going to my brother's wedding because this is a time that is right for everybody to get together. I sometimes go to services with my Christian friends too," Khaja said.

Christmas is a Christian holiday that has been celebrated for 4,000 years, according to Holidays.net. This is a holi-

day that has been publicized extensively by the media.

In 2000, there were 185 Nodaway County citizens that were listed as "other" on the Association of Religion Data Archives, according to Thearda. The section of "other" includes Hindu, Jewish and Muslim religions.

Another holiday celebration that isn't widely advertised is Kwanzaa. In the past, Northwest has given students the opportunity to participate in this celebration.

Kwanzaa is an African holiday that celebrates family, community and culture. Its name comes from "matunda ya

see **CELEBRATE** on A6

DUNHAM'S NO DUMMY

COMEDIAN JEFF Dunham laughs as his puppeteer Walter entertains the crowd at Mary Linn Performing Arts Center Tuesday. Dunham lives in Southern California but has performed all over the United States.



photos by kelle white | photography editor

CAMPUSBRIEFS

Student art up for show, sale

Northwest's department of art will hold the winter edition of its biannual Student Art Show and Sale from 4 to 8 p.m. Dec. 8, and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dec. 9, in the Fire Arts Building, which is located east of the Olive DeLuce Fine Arts Building.

The show features pottery, paintings, drawings, prints and photographs created by upper-level art students at Northwest.

Pottery and two-dimensional works will be for sale. Shoppers can pay for artwork with cash or check.

Proceeds from the show and sale go to students to help offset the cost of art supplies.

For more information, contact the department of art at 562-1324.

Commencement reminder

Northwest's winter commencement will take place at 1 p.m., Dec. 15, in Bearcat Arena.

Doors open at noon. Guests do not need tickets to attend, and a reception for graduates, families and guests will follow in the basement area beneath the arena.

This year's commencement speaker is Sang-joo Lee of Seoul, South Korea. Currently publisher of the monthly magazine "Local Autonomy," Lee served as president of Sungshin Women's University from 2003 to 2006.

He is also the former deputy prime minister and minister of Korea's Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development and, from 2001 to 2002, served as chief of staff to the South Korean president.

Graduating students can pick up their caps and gowns, along with commencement instruction packets, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Dec. 11, through Dec. 14, and 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Dec. 15, at the Student Services Center on the first floor of the Administration Building.

For more information about commencement, call Gina Bradley, commencement coordinator, Office of University Relations at (660) 562-1143.

Residence halls closing early due to National Championship

All campus residence halls will close at noon on Dec. 15, in anticipation of the Bearcats playing at the NCAA Division II National Championship Game in Florence, Ala.

The time was moved back from 6 p.m. in order to allow students time to travel safely to the game, according to Residential Life.

However, if students will not be ready to move out by noon, they can sign up to stay until 6 p.m. at their residence hall's front desk.

Experiment involves students

National Science Foundation considers Palm Pilot study

Angela Smith
Missourian Reporter

Students at Horace Mann Laboratory School took a step up in technology, putting them in the running to participate in a national science program. Horace Mann is one of three schools the National Science Foundation is considering to perform a science experiment using wireless technology.

The school is currently finishing a program through the Concord Consortium, a similar program to the one under consideration. The program allows students to interact with their handheld computers, commonly known as "Palm Pilots," for science experiments. Linda Heeler's fifth and sixth grade classes are finishing an experiment that tests how a greenhouse works. In the experiment, students test temperature, humidity and light, and analyze the results through their handhelds.

"That's real world stuff," Heeler said. "It's exactly what they will be using. That is training them for real world experience at fourth, fifth and sixth grade levels."

Throughout the program, students used scientific sensing probes to also measure electricity, temperature, force and motion for various studies. The probes interact wirelessly with the handheld computers so students can conduct these experiments from their fingertips.

"We got all the equipment and now we are doing some additional research with them this year to help them follow up," said Joe Suchan, fourth grade teacher at Horace Mann. "But we liked that so much that we bought some additional ones [probes] with the school's money."

Suchan said the opportunity to participate in the program sets Horace Mann apart from other schools.

"It should mean more equipment and money and hopefully some more rec-

ognition for the school, too, some national recognition," Suchan said.

Teachers and students second through sixth grade have actively used the handheld computers for four years. Every student has access to their own handheld. They are used as a supplemental tool in areas of math, science and reading. Suchan says they improve students' skills and make them more excited about learning.

"I hope it continues to motivate them and continues to increase test scores in math, science, social studies, reading," Suchan said. "Obviously test scores are



HORACE MANN'S fourth grade class use palm pilots to gather force measurements during their morning science class.

important to us, but just to see their overall achievement and their desire to learn. My goal is to keep their interest in learning and keep them up to date in technology."

The National Science Foundation program for this year is still in the planning process.

Donation to foster multiculturalism

Andrea James
Missourian Reporter

A new faculty committee plans to bring cultural experiences to Northwest students.

Richard Fulton, professor of history, humanities, philosophy and political science, is the chair of the International Studies and Programs Committee. The members of ISPC want to encourage the appreciation of other cultures, Fulton said.

"We want to provide programs that would educate students, who do not or cannot study abroad, about different cultures to make them more aware of the world around them," Fulton said.

The Advisory and Coordination Committee is made up of Northwest faculty members; they oversee the

ISPC and the events it will eventually sponsor. ISPC-sponsored programs by the might include speakers, movies, concerts and other programs that would involve students, Fulton said.

The ISPC is also asking other faculty members to help finance programs, Fulton said. They want to find a way to coordinate and encourage activities inside the University by bringing and sending students abroad.

"We want to try to encourage the faculty to think of some projects that would help students see the wider world," Fulton said.

Charles McAdams, dean and professor of the college of arts and sciences, has provided support for the ISPC and its programs.

He donated \$5,000 to encourage other faculty members to think cre-

atively of projects that would provide different approaches to education, Fulton said.

McAdams said the ISPC provides internationalization in at home. The ISPC will give a little understanding of others' culture and that will make their decisions richer.

"Ninety-eight percent of students do not have the opportunity to study abroad. Hopefully with the ISPC, we can help provide international experience for those who can't," McAdams said.

One of the University's Educational Key Quality Indicators is cultural enrichment, McAdams said. He said that complete cultural enrichment includes learning about other cultures as well as your own.

"The only goal of the ISPC is for

students to have a broader international view and a greater understanding of the world around us," McAdams said.

McAdams encourages faculty to think of experiences that would help bring a greater amount of awareness to the students and the University. He also wants Northwest students to participate in international programs so they can get a better understanding of why things happen and how others view the world.

"I encourage any student that can study abroad to do it, and those that can't need to look for ways to interact with others and learn more about the world around them," McAdams said.

The first project evaluation will be held on Dec. 8. The ISPC plans to use the funds raised for the spring and summer trimesters.

Holiday shopping underway

Kristin Summers
Frankie Petty
Chief Reporter, Missourian Reporter

The clock is ticking.

With only 18 days left till Christmas, holiday shopping is nearing its end.

While some finish their shopping in a matter of days, nudging their way through the crowds to the checkout counter, others take the time marking off items on their list.

After stumbling through the crowds last year on Black Friday, the day after Thanksgiving, Sherry Gutzmer waited until the evening to tackle her shopping this year.

"I went early last year and could not get through the aisles," Gutzmer said.

Around 140 million U.S. shoppers dashed to face the crowds on Black Friday weekend, according to CNN.

Black Friday received its name

because it is the day retailers begin to see a profit and kicks off the holiday shopping season, according to CNN.com

Although Black Friday is known by some as the day to get the best deals, it's not the only day to see holiday savings.

The Monday after Black Friday was named Cyber Monday by the National Retail Federation due to people shopping online while at work and online stores promoting their holiday sales.

Online sales spiked 26 percent from last year. A total of \$608 million of merchandise was purchased online according to comScore, an online research company.

While some items are still anxiously waiting to be picked up, others were grabbed from the shelves within minutes.

Best sellers this year include MP3 players and digital cameras, said Maryville Wal-Mart Store manager, Lonnie Scheffe.

Maryville's Jock's Nitch and JCPenney's agree a hot clothing item this year is hooded sweatshirts.

Local businesses advise holiday shoppers to start as early as possible.

Holiday Shopping Tips for online shopping

■ Check the refund and return policies.

■ Double check shipping and handling fees

■ Keep receipts and Web site printouts.

■ Don't e-mail your financial information.

■ Watch out for e-mail scams stating there is a problem with the order.

■ Use credit cards when buying online instead of debit cards. Credit cards offer more protection.

-Federal Trade Commission, ABC News



JANICE BRANDON-FALCONE holiday shops at Wal-Mart, Wednesday. Holiday shopping is up 26 percent from last year, the National Retail Federation reports.

Shelly Stiens, Maryville Maurice's store manager, said it's important for holiday shoppers to look for what clothing items are on their list early so they can find the right sizes and color.

If shoppers can't find what they are looking for, gift cards will also work, Stiens said.

Shoppers should have a list of what they need to purchase to prevent impulse buying, according to the Federal Trade Commission Web site advises.

Other holiday tips include reading sale ads carefully and researching before giving money to a charity.

Online shoppers need to look for "https" instead of just "http" on the address bar. The "s" shows the Web site is secure for you to use your credit card, according to ABC News.

Gutzmer advises holiday shoppers

to remember why they are shopping in the first place. It is not about the sales you find but the person you are shopping for.

"It's about giving and sharing for the people you love," Gutzmer said.

Super habits help prevent 'SuperBug'

New virus strains found immune to current antibiotics

Whitney Keyes
Missourian Reporter

"Tis the season for coughing, sneezing and those nasty cuts from the Christmas tree. And that's a just the beginning of the sickness. Carelessness this season could result in contracting what health care workers call "SuperBug."

Superbugs are germs or infections that are resistant to the normal antibiotics used to treat common illnesses. These superbugs are becoming more and more common now, with the abundance of antibiotics being used to treat everything from a cold, to the flu, to an infection. When these strains attack, the victim could be killed in days.

"It's more of an awareness thing now, people are more aware, and there are a few more cases," said Infections control nurse at St. Francis Hospital and Health Services Barb Mullock.

One of the more common superbugs is Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA). In the past years, MRSA has been on the rise, and has extended to affecting people outside the health care profession.

Now, sometimes called Community-associated MRSA (mean-

ing non health care workers also contract it), anyone could contract it.

Most victims acquire MRSA by coming into contact with an already infected person—through open wounds, unwashed hands and crowded living conditions. Also, body piercings, tattoos and locker rooms present more of a risk.

Despite the care taken by some to prevent MRSA, it is common. It is easily treated if caught in time. Warning signs of MRSA can look like pimples, boils or spider bites. Usually, these are pus-filled.

These can be drained, but if not caught in time can lead to pneumonia or bloodstream infections.

If these are spotted, one should contact their health care provider as soon as possible. Even after treatment, superbugs can be contracted again.

"The best way to protect yourself is to take care of your own immunity. That includes good nutrition, getting enough sleep and daily health practices," said Virginia Murr, director of wellness and assistant director of health services at the University Health Center.

Murr's "daily health practices"

include covering any cut or wound and good hand washing—which is comprised of 15 seconds with hot water and soap.

Other ways to prevent superbugs are to dry clothes in the dryer, as opposed to air-drying. The heat from the dryer kills more bacteria on the clothing.

Refrain from touching personal objects such as toothbrushes, razors or shower shoes. Also, using alcohol-based sanitizers can eliminate some of the germs. Lastly, mouths should always be covered if sneezing or coughing.

However, one of the most important measures to take when protecting oneself from superbugs is to follow the doctors' orders, Mullock said.

Instructions from doctors about how much of the antibiotic to take, and for how long should be highly regarded.

Overuse of antibiotics to a degree created superbugs, and under use will prolong the sickness.

"Superbugs are partly because people are noncompliant. Follow the directions," Mullock said.

So this season, make hand washing, mouth covering and wound protection part of your family holiday traditions.

Public Safety adds cameras to cruisers

Matthew Elliott
Missourian Reporter

As technology increases Maryville Public Safety is working on equipping its fleet of police cruisers with another set of eyes.

Public Safety already has two cameras in cruisers and was just awarded a grant for \$3,075 for an additional camera from the Missouri Intergovernmental Risk Management Association.

"There is a certain expectation from the public and the courts to keep up our technology," Director of Public Safety Keith Wood said.

MIRMA, a non-profit risk management association of about 70 cities in Missouri, that pools their money to insure themselves, according to Matthew Brodersen, loss control director of MIRMA.

Cities from Maryville to New Madrid, Mo. are members of MIRMA.

"We are hoping for one cam-

era a year until the whole fleet is equipped," Brodersen said.

Additional cameras are something that Public Safety has been looking into for a while.

"We have wanted to go this direction for a number of years," Wood said.

Wood said that the new cameras will be used for many things including training new officers in what and what not to do.

The cameras will also be used during pursuits and vehicle stops and as evidence for field sobriety tests.

"Submitting the video evidence will help keep officers from having to testify and will save them time," Brodersen said.

Supervisors will be able to keep track of officers more easily with the cameras as well. The system is very easy to use because it records directly to DVD, Wood said. It prevents having to use extra software to view the video and saves money and time.

Maryville is actually behind the curve in that all of the cruisers are not equipped with video units, Wood said.

After this one there are still three more cruisers without cameras.

Public Safety will be able to reapply for the grant annually to obtain the other cameras.

Each camera costs about \$5,000 and with the grant just over \$3,000, each new camera will cost Maryville about \$2,000.

CITYBRIEFS

Artisan hosts 3rd Annual Winter Art Festival

The Artisan Gallery will host its 3rd Annual Winter Art Festival Dec. 8, 9 and 10, and will feature Northwest alumni artists. The event is free and open to the public.

Ken Nelson, who was a sculpting instructor at Northwest for 10 years, will display handcrafted, wood-turned sculptures. His wife, Barb, who was a Maryville Middle School art teacher, created ceramics and pottery. Alumnus Fred Scott will have jewelry and other metal items for sale. Ceramic sculptor and alumnus Mike Rose will also have items on display and local artist Jeff Foster will present photography.

Fred Rols, owner of the Artisan, encourages residents to visit the gallery for the opportunity to view and purchase unique Christmas gifts.

The gallery is open Friday, 4:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Raffle being held to fund animal shelter in Gentry County

The Albany, Mo., Community Development Corporation will be holding a raffle to fund the enclosure and insulation one-half of the current animal shelter building in Gentry County.

Raffle tickets are \$1 each, six for \$5. The prize is a 14-inch by 26-inch stained glass window and will be displayed at the Corner Deli. The drawing will be Friday, Dec. 22 at 3 p.m. Tickets are available at the Corner Deli or call Rita at (660) 247-2425.

Maryville Parks and Recreation offering adult basketball

Maryville Parks and Recreation will be offering adult basketball for the winter season. There will be a women's league and three men's leagues.

Registration will be Dec. 4 to Dec. 15 at the Maryville Community Center.

Team fees are \$95 and player fees are \$15 for community center members and \$18 for non-members.



Wishing you a safe and healthy Holiday Season!

St. Francis
Hospital & Health Services

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Dewhirst edits history of American Congress

Sarah Dulinsky
Missourian Reporter

Three long years and countless hours of dedication were crammed into one encyclopedia.

Political science professor Robert Dewhirst finished editing an Encyclopedia of Congress earlier this year.

The book took over three years to edit.

Dewhirst said the publishing

company, Facts on Find, contacted him to ask if he could do the job.

He said that someone had submitted his name to the publishers anonymously and that is how he was chosen to do the job.

Political science assistant professor Dan Smith said this is not his first book.

"He's written and edited a number of books in the past, so this is no big thing for him," Smith said. "The thing he likes most about

these kinds of projects is that he gets to learn more."

Smith was one of the contributors to the encyclopedia.

He wrote 14 articles in the encyclopedia. Northwest student Kelsi Mathews said that Dewhirst was the right man for the job.

"I think Mr. Dewhirst is a very interesting professor and I believe he has the skills and knowledge to accomplish such a task as editing an encyclopedia."

The Encyclopedia includes a brief history of American Congress from the start of congress to the present day.

Dewhirst contacted and solicited over 50 different teachers and scholars to contribute their knowledge into the encyclopedia.

"I learned a great deal after doing this project," Dewhirst said. "And I hope that people who read this learn a great deal about American Congress as well."

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-OUR VIEW

Cities should all be trans-fat free

New York City residents will soon be able to have their cake and eat it, too—with less guilt.

The New York Board of Health voted unanimously Tuesday to make New York restaurants trans-fats free, and we think other cities should follow suit.

Not only do trans fats contribute to heart disease, but they also raise bad cholesterol and lower good cholesterol simultaneously. A common example of a trans fat is partially hydrogenated vegetable oil that can be found in such items as pizza, bakery items and french fries.

The Food and Drug Administration estimates Americans consume 4.7 pounds of trans fats each year.

Until Maryville is included in the list of trans fats free cities, do your part. Since January 2006, the FDA required all food manufacturers to list trans fats on food labels directly under the saturated fats line. Check the labels. If the food you are purchasing contains a lot of trans fats, choose a healthier option instead. Furthermore, replace trans fats with monounsaturated and polyunsaturated fats that have health benefits in moderation. Examples of these include olive and canola oils and foods like nuts.

The FDA also recommends eating more fish because it contains lower amounts of trans and saturated fats than red meat.

Also, if you feel the need to eat fast food choose one of the few restaurants who have voluntarily switched the type of oil they use in their restaurants including, McDonald's, Wendy's, KFC and Taco Bell.

Approximately 127 million adults are overweight, 60 million are obese and nine million are severely obese, the American Obesity Association reports. This leads to things such as Type 2 diabetes, heart disease and even death. If you are already overweight, why not take baby steps like eating trans fats in moderation to ensure you live a longer, healthier life?

Conversely, if you eat anything you want because you are skinny with a high metabolism, know that even if you aren't packing on the pounds from your caloric and fat intake, you still aren't healthy and can also suffer health problems as a result of poor diet.

Read labels and remember moderation. It's OK to have trans fats in small amounts, but it is the American way of eating out constantly and blindly sticking food in their mouths that has led to the bans such as the one in New York City.

Do what you can to help yourself now. Know that trans fats are horrible for you and maybe one day you'll be able to eat the cake from the local bakery with a little less guilt.

-LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I pretty much knew from the beginning of my career here at Northwest that academics were not top priority. Say what you will about sports bringing in money and yada, yada, yada, but they still shouldn't be put before the very purpose of having a college. That purpose being: TO GRADUATE WITH A DEGREE! It is inexcusable for the administration to move commencement for the POSSIBILITY that our football team could make it to the finals. If there are any football players graduating, they could walk during the spring. If there are people graduating that want to drive to Alabama, get over it. What is more important? Getting drunk in another state watching a football game, or walking across the stage to get your diploma? Why does the school feel the need to be so accommodating for the game and not for the graduates? That doesn't make sense.

The reason commencement was even scheduled on a Friday and not a Saturday was because of the game. Apparently they didn't have the foresight to put it at a time that wouldn't conflict with traveling. Their lack of foresight has now messed up bunches of people's plans. These people paid for expensive invitations and graduation announcements. These people have to contact everyone they invited to let them know of a time change. Many people will have family and friends who can't come now because it is during a workday. Had they known in advance they would have been more likely to make arrangements for this event. But now there is less than a month.

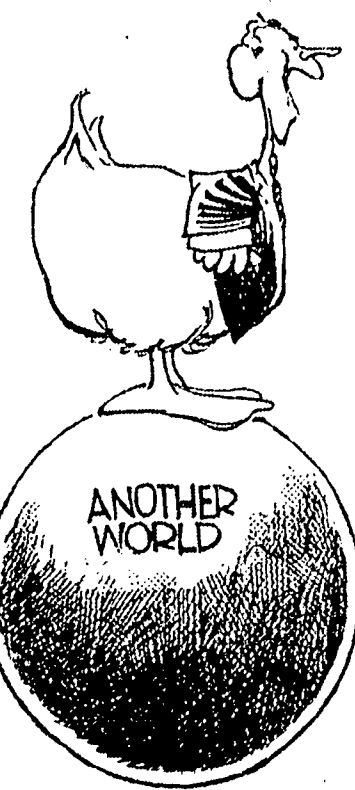
That isn't enough time. When I was in high school and making my decision about where I should go, football was not a deciding factor. Unless you are on the team, football shouldn't be a deciding factor for anyone. I'm glad these guys are doing great, and I'm sure that it is great for school morale, but it isn't great for those of us who are serious about academics.

Our teachers are yelled at for using too much copy paper, and our projects are always missing up. These minute problems could easily be eradicated but aren't. But when a sports team starts to win something, the school jumps to action. We see this and are once again reminded that sports come before learning.

Stephanie Purtil
Northwest student

QUACK!

PRECISELY!



-COLUMN

Spoiling kids not very Christmas-like

When I was 10, all I wanted for Christmas was a pair of \$19.99 pink and purple rollerblades to skate my way around the next roller rink birthday party.

Today, the 10-year-olds of America unite to ask for the one thing parents will literally give an arm and a leg for—a PlayStation 3.

Retail price for the newest PlayStation 3 when I was 10 was \$400. But, of course, if the local Wal-Mart or Best Buy actually had the system, parents wouldn't be buying their kid's love for \$12,000.

Station 3 when I was 10, my dad would have told me to get a job. Honestly, I can't blame kids for asking for ridiculously priced gifts this Christmas. If the parents are willing to fork over one

quarter of their annual salary to make their kid happy, why not ask for it.

I began my Christmas shopping Saturday and realized parents actually like to spend their life savings on gifts. I stood in line at Kohl's to buy my 3-year-old niece a \$2 book, and I overheard a beer-gutted mother slapping her gum to the unfortunate soul on the other end of the cell phone.

"Joe's gonna have a hell of a time finding something as good as I found for our boy for Christmas. I guess John's just gonna know his mother loves him more."

That was when I realized how kids can get away with asking for a PlayStation 3. It's not that they are spoiled brats, but that parents are hungry to give their

egos a boost.

I'm sure the Monday after Black Friday, parents boasted about their early bird shopping to coworkers after buying their kid the most wanted hard-to-find expensive gift of the year.

For all those parents who actually got their hands on a PlayStation 3 this Christmas, congratulations. Congratulations for impressing us all with your outrageous credit card bill. Congratulations on making every other parent tell their kid why there's no PlayStation 3 under the tree this year. And congratulations on teaching your child the real reason behind Christmas by winning over his affection for a few months.

Wouldn't Jesus be proud?

-COLUMN

Appreciate even unwanted presents

It's the Christmas Day look we all dread and pray we never see.

It's that expression we see on our loved ones' faces the moment they first see the gift we got them after ripping off the wrapping paper and popping open the box lid.

It's the look that's inevitably followed by a statement of apathetic gratitude.

"Oh. It's an autographed copy of 'Zoyzia Grass and You.' Wow, thanks Mom. I've always wanted to remain single until I was 40."

Most of us have been on one or both ends of a bad gift. You rack



Evan Young
University Editor

your brain for the perfect holiday surprise, and when you finally find something, it turns out to be the one item your receiver could live without. Or, you spend half a year anxiously waiting to get that perfect present, only to discover come Dec. 25 that Aunt "X" and Uncle "Y" got you the wrong color and size, or your boy/girlfriend bought you Michael Bolton's, not Michael Bublé's, holiday album.

In either scenario, it's a painful feeling.

Society doesn't help ease this pain either. A good percentage of holiday television commercials

portray bad gift giving as if it were a sport. Starting Dec. 1, if not before, you inevitably encounter an advertisement for a major department store or retail chain that features a person who is just horrified his or her spouse didn't Christmas shop at that store.

We all share a good chuckle, but for me, deep down there remains an unanswered question: What ever happened to genuine appreciation?

In my mind, there are two types of "thank you's": honest and half-hearted. I think we're all guilty of giving more of the latter than the former when it comes to "unwanted" gifts. More often than not we ignore the fact that the person who gave us this less-than-perfect present spent their own time

and money to obtain it. We take for granted the idea that, for the most part, their heart was in the right place and intentions good.

Whoever came up with the saying, "It's the thought that counts," was on target. When we get something we don't want, we should find it in our heart to offer a sincere "thanks" before we say, "I already have this," or ask, "Can I have the gift receipt?"

It's a small task, but one that's essential to maintaining the spirit of the holiday season. Be thankful for what you have, and what you get. Let your loved ones know, no matter how repulsive the gift, that you appreciate it, so they know their thoughts count.

And save that facial expression for another day.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Nov. 17
■ **Forgery**, ongoing investigation, 400 block N. Main

Nov. 27
■ **Justin J. Rodrick**, 25, Bradyville, Iowa, failure to appear, 400 block N. Vine

■ **Unlawful use of a weapon**, ongoing investigation, 1100 block N. College Drive

Nov. 28
■ **Christa M. Ganley**, 18, Maryville, DWI, MIP, fail to signal turn; **Samantha J. Hargis**, 19, Maryville, MIP; **Kelly R. Couchenour**, 18, Maryville, MIP, 1100 block S. Main

■ **Cleveland H. Brown**, 18, Maryville, failure to appear, 400 block N. Market

Accidents
Nov. 27
■ **Matthew A. Dudeck**, 19, Oregon, Mo., and **Paulette A. Byland**, 63, Maryville, collided at First and Munn.

■ **Gayla R. Striplin**, 39, Maryville, and **Robert G. Lager**, 42, collided at West South Hills Drive and Main. Striplin was cited for careless and imprudent driving.

OBITUARIES

Marguerite White, 88, Maryville, formerly of Burlington Junction, died Tuesday, Dec. 5, 2006 at Village Care of Maryville.

She was born March 28, 1918 in rural Quitman, Mo., the daughter of Loren and Mattie Pearl (Howard) Winslow.

Marguerite married Donald White Aug. 6, 1939 in Quitman. She had been a member of the Graham United Methodist Church and had worked at Northwest Missouri State University.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Donald White; son, Otis Everett White; her parents; brothers, Andy and Bud Winslow and sister, Maxine Winslow; step-sisters, Fleda Bayers and Charlotte Pennington; step-brothers, Murray and Russell Shelton; and a daughter-in-law, Sandra White.

Survivors include a daughter, Carolyn White, Kansas City; a son, Ralph White, Maryville; sisters, Mary White and Eva Powers, Maryville; brother, Howard Winslow, Uniontown, Penn.; eight grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

Visitation is 7 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 7, at Price Funeral Home Chapel with Funeral Services at 2 p.m. Friday, at Price Funeral Home Chapel, Maryville.

Burial will be in Ohio Cemetery, Burlington Junction.

Mary Catherine Needels.

87, of Ravenwood, Mo., died Tuesday, Nov. 28, 2006.

Mary Catherine was born Aug. 9, 1919 near Parnell, Mo., and attended elementary and secondary school in Ravenwood.

She received her bachelor's degree in education from Northwest Missouri State Teacher's College in 1941. Mary Catherine earned her master's degree in Education from the University of Kansas City in 1949.

She served in the U.S. Navy WAVES during World War II as a Navigation and Link Trainer at Corpus Christi, Texas.

Following her service she began her teaching career at the high school level at Dearborn and Grain Valley, Mo. From 1947 to 1963 she taught at the intermediate level in Kansas, Illinois and Michigan.

She also lived in the Kansas City area for many years and taught at Dobbs Elementary School in the Hickman Mills School District from 1963 until she retired in 1981.

Catherine was a member of the Ravenwood Methodist Church, Daughters of the American Revolution, American Association of University Women, Women's City Club and Alpha Delta Kappa and remained active into her retirement years. She also attended Central United Methodist Church in Kansas City and was active in the women's program. She loved the Lord and shared His love often with others.

She also loved music and both sang and played the piano. Catherine traveled extensively throughout the United States and the world and was involved in cultural activities in the Kansas City area for years.

She was preceded in death by her parents, William A. and Aletha Needels, three brothers,

Homer Needels, Aubert Needels and W.A. Needels, Jr.; three sisters, Zella Miller, Eileen Rogers and Virginia Winemiller; two infants siblings and two nieces, Karla K. Schmilke and Katherine Pitts.

She is survived by eight nieces and nephews, including Guyetha Garbe, Maryville; Byron Nowell Miller, Ravenwood, Carolyn Copeland, Carthage, Texas, Bill Needels, Olathe, Kan.; Bert Winemiller, Houston, Wanda Wilson, Prairie Village, Kan.; Gary Winemiller, Cape Coral, Fla. and Paul Needels, Belton, Mo.

Visitation was Saturday, Dec. 2 at the Ravenwood United Methodist Church. Services were held immediately following the visitation with burial in Oak Lawn Cemetery, Ravenwood.

In lieu of flowers the family suggests contributions to the Ravenwood United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 126, Hopkins, Mo., 64461-0126 in Mary Catherine's honor.

Darrell Alvin Johnson, 44, of Skidmore, Mo., died Dec. 4, 2006 at his home.

He was born Jan. 17, 1962 in Maryville, the son of Noel Ollie and Valda Ruth (Richey) Johnson.

Johnson served a short time in the military service and later he was disabled.

He was preceded in death by his father, Noel Ollie Johnson on Feb. 15, 1990.

Survivors include his mother, Valda Johnson, Skidmore; a sister, Elizabeth Ruth Maurer, Liberty, Mo., and brothers, Randy Noel Johnson, Fillmore, Mo., and Daniel Lyndon Johnson, Maryville.

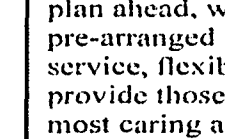
Memorial Services are at 1:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 7 at Price Funeral Home, Maryville. Inurnment will be at a later date at



a celebration of love
**P. Steven Danfelt, Jr.,
Danfelt Funeral Home**

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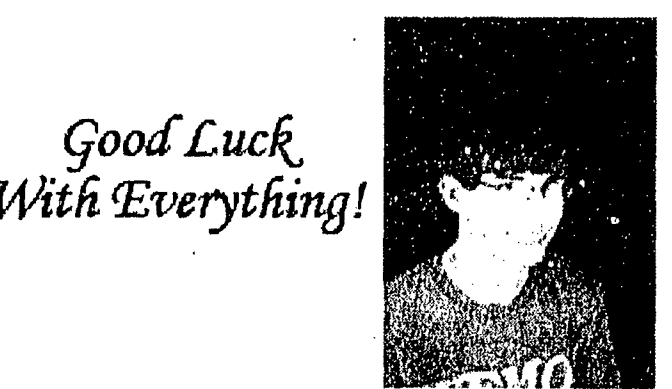


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Thank All of Its
Graduating Seniors for all Their Hard Work:



Brent "Flaco" Scarbrough
Sarah Tuebner
Mallory Webster



Jerome Boettcher

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EVERY WEDNESDAY, GET A FREE CHURRO WITH ANY LARGE EZ BURGER OR COMBO MEAL PURCHASE AFTER A BEARCAT WIN.

NORTHWEST MISSOURIAN STATE UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL SCHEDULE	
Sept. 2 at Minnesota State	1:30 pm
Sept. 9 at Minnesota State	1:30 pm
Sept. 16 at Minnesota State	1:30 pm
Sept. 23 Missouri Western	1:30 pm
Sept. 30 Missouri Western	1:30 pm
Oct. 7 Missouri State	1:30 pm
Oct. 14 Missouri State	1:30 pm
Oct. 21 Missouri State	1:30 pm
Oct. 28 Missouri State	1:30 pm
Nov. 4 Missouri State	1:30 pm
Nov. 11 Missouri State	1:30 pm
Nov. 18 Missouri State	1:30 pm
Nov. 25 Missouri State	1:30 pm
Dec. 2 Missouri State	1:30 pm
Dec. 9 Missouri State	1:30 pm
Dec. 16 Missouri State	1:30 pm
Dec. 23 Missouri State	1:30 pm
Dec. 30 Missouri State	1:30 pm

City forfeits responsibility to maintain local cemetery

Dominic Genetti
Community Editor

They were businessmen, war veterans and developers. While their families were not related, a trait they did share was the development of Maryville.

Today, the Kuchs, Airy and Fields families, amongst many others, lie peacefully on the grounds of Miriam Cemetery.

After handling costly maintenance responsibilities, city officials are resigning from their duties of the cemetery.

"The main issue is that we had a three-year maintenance contract set to expire at the end of the year and what has happened it has become a much more costly endeavor than we initially anticipated," Maryville City Manager Mike Rietz said.

"With the financial condition that the city is currently in, most tax revenue having leveled off, we have to look real closely at our expenses and this one where we don't own the cemetery."

However, the city of Maryville owns Oak Hill Cemetery located off Main Street.

Located near East South Avenue behind St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery, Miriam Cemetery was established by the Odd Fellows organization in the 1800s, according to local historian Tom

Carneal.

After caretakers died, ownership of the cemetery went to the civic court judge. A position currently held by Roger Prokes. He now has the authority to appoint maintenance responsibilities.

"What we told him [Prokes] is that we do not wish to extend our current maintenance contract and he has been looking for other ways to keep the cemetery," Rietz said.

Prokes said he has contacted the Missouri Attorney General's office for assistance in the situation and is also exploring other options.

The attorney general has the authority to delegate responsibilities of cemeteries declared abandoned.

"If it were officially declared abandoned, by the attorney general, the attorney general would determine at least a 50-50 proposal (between the city and county)," Rietz said.

Taking a toll in the city's budget in maintenance care for the cemetery is upkeep, mowing and the inconvenience of dirt roads during inclement weather.

"The roads are very unimproved tracks through the cemetery," Rietz said. "That's part of the issue. During wet weather there are complaints, concerns about being able to actually move

through the cemetery and we understand the 'problem dollars' to fix it are not available to us right now."

Rietz said it took about \$30,000 in annual costs with \$10,000 in revenue.

According to Maryville City Councilwoman Pat Cummings, the city was able to draw upon the interest trusts to maintain the cemetery, however, the cost is more than what the interest generates.

While Miriam Cemetery remains active with visitors and funerals, the main concerns rest on the cemetery's condition.

Nonetheless, Cummings believes the cemetery will be kept up in any event.

"I think it's in everybody's best interest as a cemetery, but the question really is, and it's in the judge's hands, who is going to do it and under what terms," Cummings said. "We may in fact wind up with it anyway, although we could have ownership of the trust funds to at least do something with it. It's been maintained well by the city, but it's a drain on the city's resources."

Despite the city's depart from cemetery maintenance, it is uncertain when a decision will be made for future cemetery responsibilities.

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Newsroom: 660-562-1224
Advertising: 660-562-1635
Circulation: 660-562-1528
Missourian Online: 660-562-1224
Fax: 660-562-1521
www.nwmisouriannews.com

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CAMPUSTALK

What is your holiday wish?



"I wish for a car MP3 player."
Jared Kendrick
Political Science



"To spend time with my family and to see my friends."
Lindsay Rosanne
Management/Marketing



"For it to snow on Christmas."
Zach Bruner
Social Science Education



"I wish that winter break was longer."
Ryan Lessman
Corporate Recreation



"For New Orleans to be rebuilt in full."
Justin Downing
Political Science/Philosophy

CAUTION: Local officials offer winter safety tips

continued from A1

their driving experiences as well as Public Safety's input to decide when it is time to start putting down ice melt.

If the weather is bad enough, they will focus on emergency routes only, Decker said. It takes about four hours to clear all the city streets, when it has stopped snowing.

"We encourage folks to drive safely and give themselves extra time," Decker said.

In the case of a winter emergency, Public Safety is also preparing and advising residents of other safety tips.

Public Safety does internal and external preparations for winter, said Keith Wood, director of Public Safety.

Externally, the public is

informed about what they can do to protect themselves during the winter, Wood said.

Internally, Public Safety makes sure they are ready to respond in any weather situation. The fire truck chains must be ready to put on the trucks if necessary. The tires on police cars are changed throughout the winter months depending on road conditions. It is also important for officers to have the proper attire to protect them from the cold.

Wood recommends people keep fuel tanks in their cars as full as possible and putting non-perishable food and blankets in just in case they get stranded.

If a person is stranded, Wood said it's important to let someone know and stay with the vehicle. The odds of a person being found with their car are better than leaving to find help.

"Typically in this part of the country you're never more than half a mile or a mile from help no matter where you would be stranded, but it's still a good idea to stay with your vehicle if possible," Wood said.

It is necessary to be prepared for sudden changes in weather. Circumstances can change in short distances.

"Last week would be a perfect example we had nothing on the ground and Kansas City had a foot plus," Wood said.

It is necessary to be aware of and prepared for surroundings and road conditions.

A road may appear wet, but it could be ice. "A lot of taking care of yourself in the winter is really using your head and thinking ahead," Wood said.

SNOWMEN: Resident relishes 500-piece collection

continued from A1

Palmer began her collection many years ago with the purchase of a few snowmen for her front porch. Today, snowmen are displayed on snow globes, pillows, figurines, blankets, cell phone and toilet seat covers and in many more forms all throughout her home.

As a volunteer at the Nodaway County Senior Center, Palmer is popularly known as the "woman who loves snowmen and Christmas."

"If we find one, we all try to pick up snowmen for her and hope that she might not already have it," co-worker, Rose Vance said.

Since most of the snowmen are gifts, friends, family and co-workers are constantly searching for more snowmen to add to her collection.

"Everyone knows I like them,

and they just give them to me for gifts. It just mushrooms," Palmer said.

One snowman came from a co-worker at the senior center, Kenny Wallace. Wallace was visiting friends when he caught a glimpse of a snowman tangled in the bushes. Despite its wet and muddy condition, he gave the snowman to Palmer who cleaned it up and named it her "homeless snowman."

Another snowman found its home after her young grandson spotted the snowman crafted from an old brick at an auction sale in his school.

and always has a smile on, just like all her snowmen."



THIS SNOWMAN is one of over 500 snowmen Palmer collects.

CELEBRATE: Other winter holidays celebrated across campus

continued from A1

Kwanzaa, which is Swahili for "first fruits," according to Officialkwanzaawebsite.org. Kwanzaa is held Dec. 26 through Jan. 1.

Kwanzaa relies on seven principles that include unity, self-determination, responsibility, economics, purpose, creativity and faith. The colors of this holiday are red, black, and green; each color represents something special.

Black represents the people, red their struggle and green represents their future and hope.

Most holidays, like Kwanzaa, focus on celebrating a Higher Power with emphasis on friends and family.

However, some people do not believe in a specific god and choose to focus only on loved ones.

Northwest freshman Dustin Wilson is one of these people; he is an atheist who still celebrates Christmas. Wilson believes that Christmas should focus mainly on friends and family.

"I personally celebrate Christmas not as the birth of Christ, but more as the gathering of friends

and family celebrating lives and togetherness," Wilson said.

Wilson decided on atheism when he was a freshman in high school.

After he told his parents about his decision they suggested he go to church and try to grow accustomed to religion.

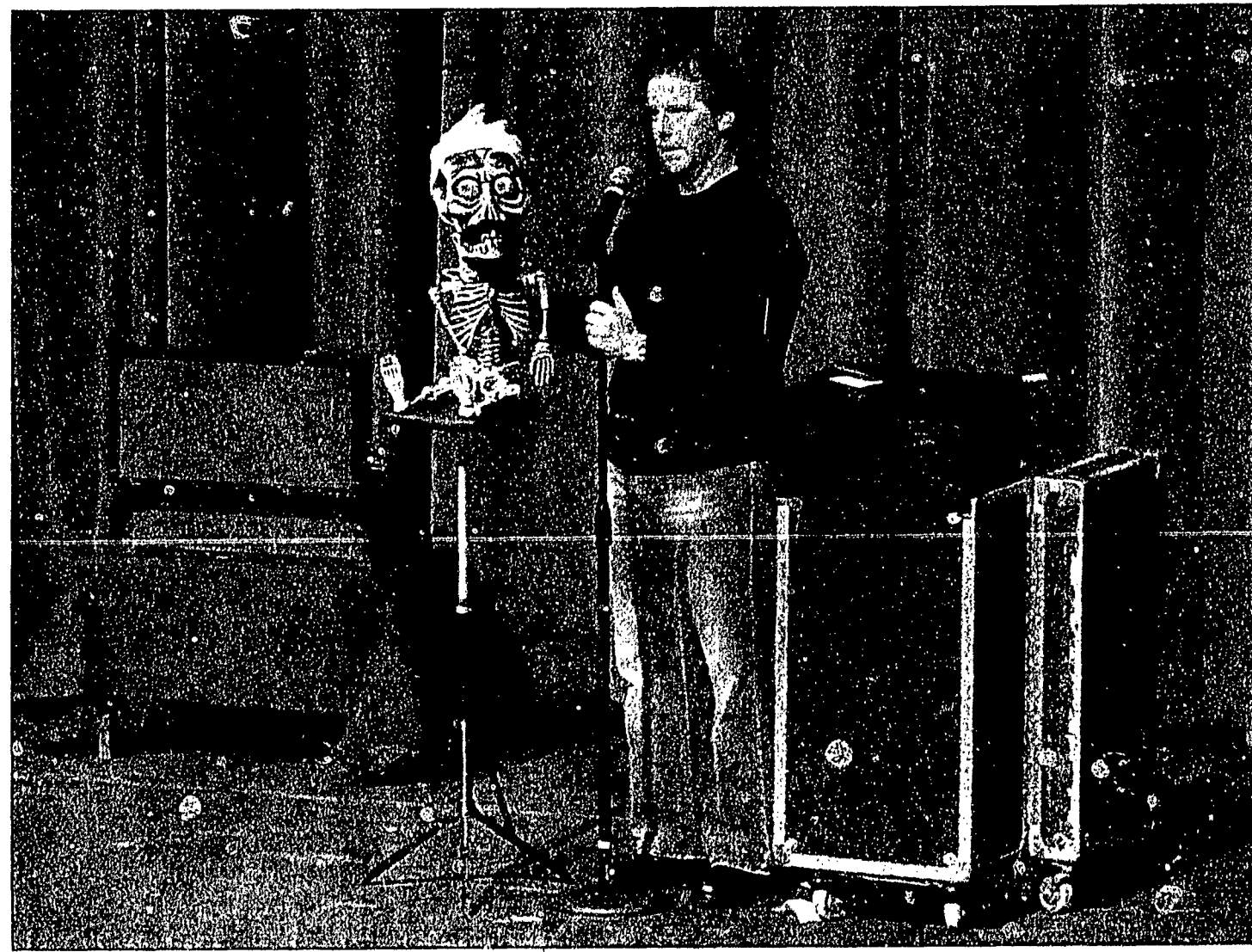
"I've attended a Baptist, Lutheran, Catholic and Evangelistic church. None of them seemed right to me because I didn't believe that there was a need for a 'higher being' and didn't think we needed it to guide us through our own lives," Wilson said.

During Christmas, Wilson spends time with friends and family. He believes that Christmas is a time to appreciate life and share good times with others.

"I personally do not like the idea of gift giving because it seems to me that Christmas has turned more into a greedy holiday rather than one with meaning," Wilson said.

Whether it's Christmas, Eid-ul-Fitr, Kwanzaa or family togetherness, one phrase encompasses it all. Happy Holidays.

FUNNY BONE



JEFF DUNHAM performs with his new puppet, Akhmed the dead terrorist. Dunham has performed on Comedy Central and is scheduled to do another special next year.

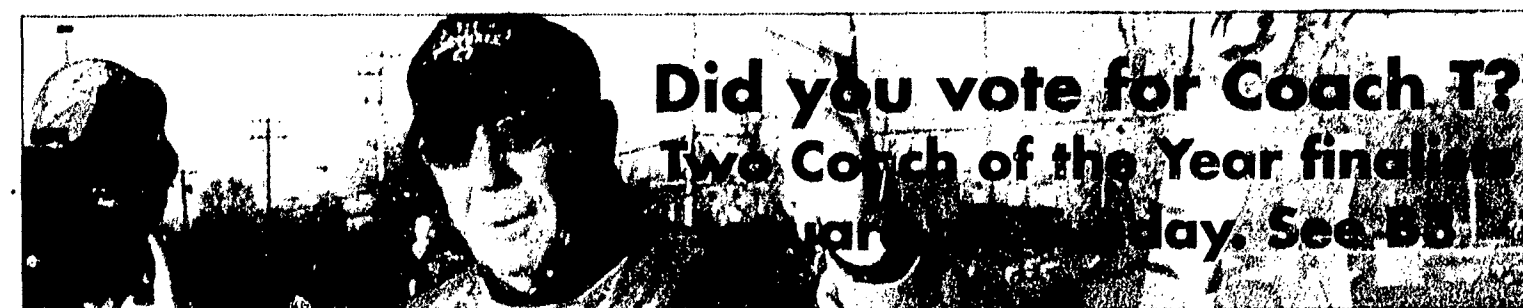
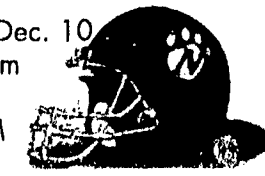
photo by katie white photography editor

DIVISION II SEMIFINALS

No. 6 BLOOMSBURG VS No. 2 NORTHWEST



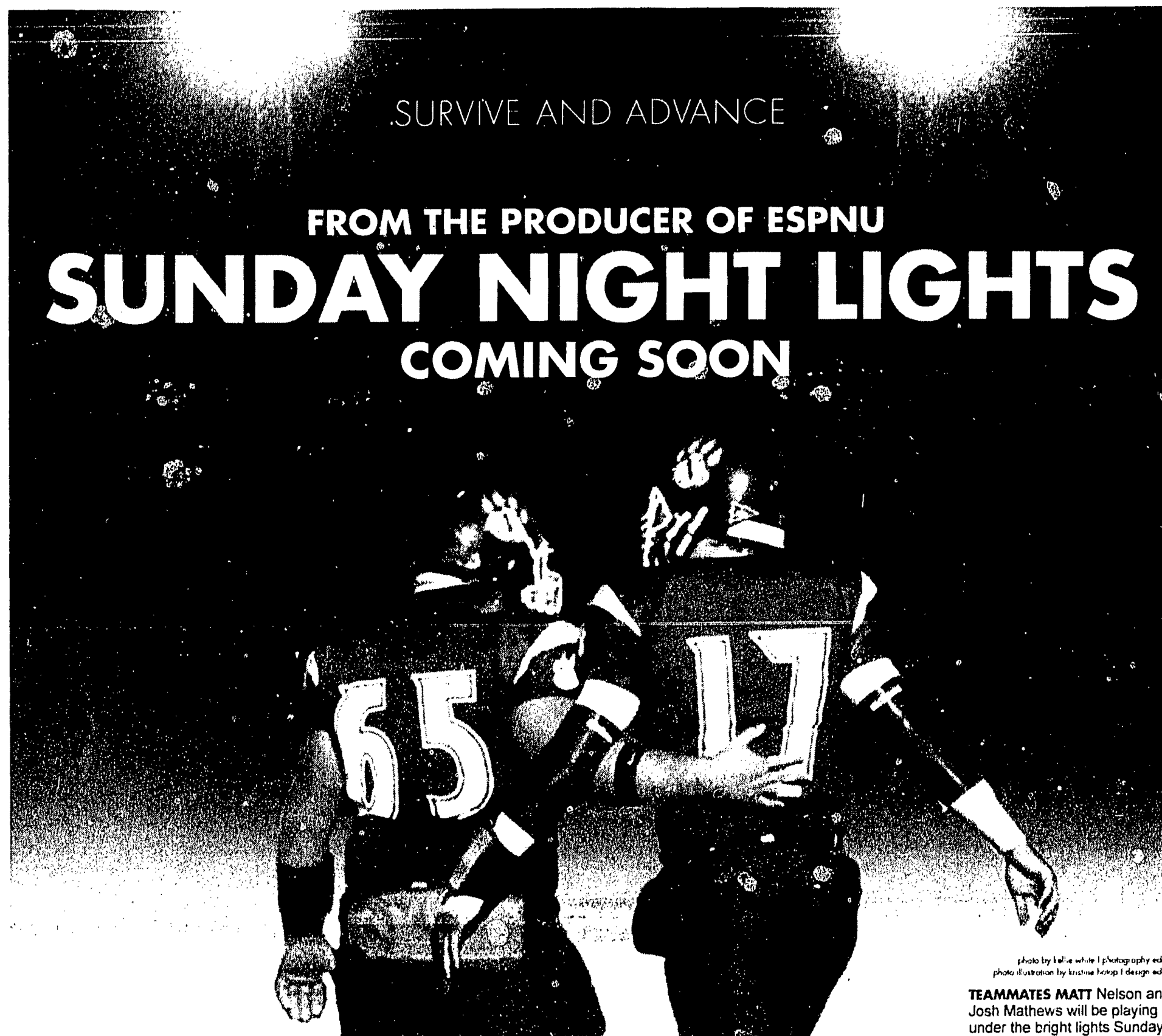
Kickoff: 4:30 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 10
Where: Bearcat Stadium
Watch: ESPN
Listen: KXCX 90.5 FM



Did you vote for Coach T?
Two Coach of the Year finalists
will meet today. See B6.

MISSOURIAN SPORTS

12 / 7 / 06



TEAMMATES MATT Nelson and Josh Mathews will be playing under the bright lights Sunday.

ESPN showing up early on game day

Jerome Boettcher
Sports Editor

When ESPN announced Sunday that Northwest would be playing in the earlier semifinal game, there was a little disappointment.

By playing Bloomsburg (Pa.) at 4:30 p.m. Sunday in the semifinals, Northwest will play on ESPN.

Unfortunately for Northwest they couldn't get the primetime game at 6 p.m. Sunday, which would air on ESPN2. Defending national champion Grand Valley State and Delta State will play on ESPN2 in Allendale, Mich.

Though ESPN2 doesn't reach as

big of an audience as ESPN2, Athletic Director Bob Boerigter welcomes the national coverage.

"We prefer ESPN2 because it can reach a bigger audience...but it's national TV on our own campus," he said.

Boerigter had a telephone conference Monday afternoon with members of ESPN, a television production company and "key members" of Northwest like grounds crew and Environmental Services employees.

Boerigter said from the conference he learned that the television production company won't be in Maryville until 9:30 a.m. Sunday. The crew, however, which consists of 35-40 people, wouldn't be in until 10:30 a.m.

Boerigter said it does make him nervous at how late ESPN is getting into town, but believes they know what they are doing.

"I know how to plug in a toaster,

see ESPN on B2

Lights to be in town by Friday

Jerome Boettcher
Sports Editor

Cue the lights.

Thanks to the Northwest football team's 28-21 quarterfinal win against Chadron State Saturday, history will be made Sunday.

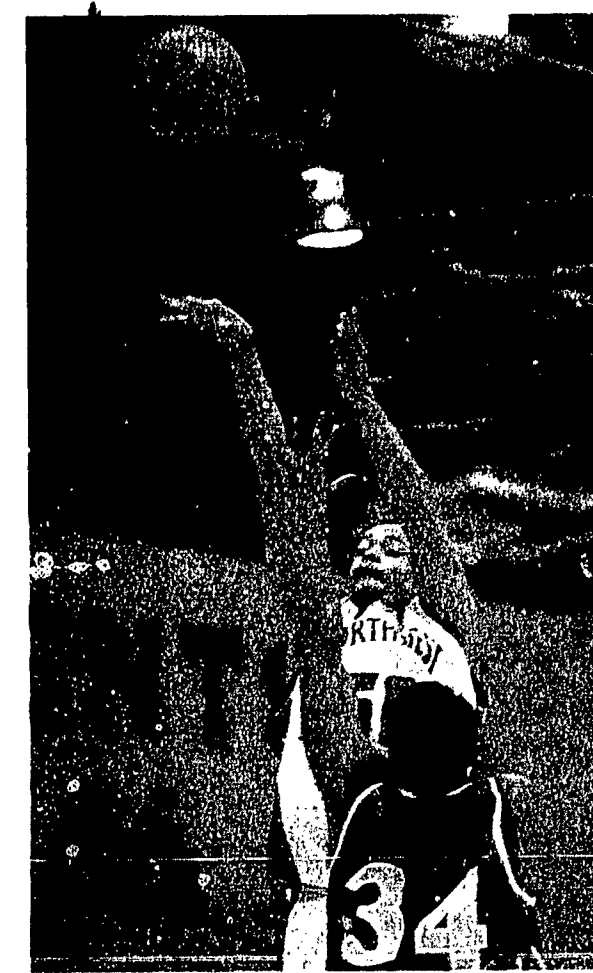
For the first time in three decades, the Northwest football team will play a home night game.

Northwest hosts Bloomsburg (Pa.) at 4:30 p.m., Sunday, on ESPN2 in the semifinals with a trip to the national championship on the line.

"In the back of my mind, I thought what a great thing for, not our team, but for this University," Northwest coach Mel Tjeerdsma said. "The stadium we've got, right here in the middle of campus, all these games they host, there's not a more beautiful stadium. There's not a more beautiful setting than we've got right here and the whole country can see it. I'm excited about that. I had dreams about this all the time and it finally got here, so I'm happy."

On Tuesday a representative of Musco Lighting was on campus to scout out the area, according to Northwest athletic director Bob Boerigter. Boerigter said on Tuesday that the lights should be here on Friday from Muscatine, Iowa, where Musco Lighting manufactures their products. Boerigter said he is unsure if the lights will go up that day or if they will have to wait until ESPN gets into town.

-NW MEN'S BASKETBALL



NORTHWEST'S KELVIN Cayuth goes up for a shot Monday evening against a St. Mary defender. Northwest won the game 77-36.

'Cats douse Flames

Brett Barger
Assistant Sports Editor

The taste of victory continues to elude the St. Mary men's basketball team.

St. Mary, out of Kansas, has won one game since its home opener in 2005.

No. 23 Northwest made sure St. Mary wouldn't reach a team milestone as they defeated the Flames 77-36 at Bearcat Arena Monday.

Mike Larsen and Hunter Henry combined for 37 points in Northwest's non-conference home victory.

Larsen scored a career-high 16 points; Henry poured in 21 points and pulled down eight rebounds in the blowout at Bearcat Arena. Larsen's four three-pointers were part of a team that went 9-of-17 from downtown.

"They're all kind of behind me just saying 'be ready to play the game and be ready to step up' and that's something I've always done," Larsen said, who is filling in for the injured Dillon Higdon.

Northwest (6-1) opened the game on a 16-3 run. After a jumper by St. Mary's Steven Morgan, the 'Cats held the Flames scoreless for nearly five minutes. Northwest then went on an 8-0 run, culminating in a steal and thunderous dunk by Henry to extend the lead to 24-5. Northwest retired to the locker room with a 51-16 lead.

"He's (Henry) just got a real good feel," Northwest coach Steve Tappmeyer said. "He's one of our guys that doesn't try and do too much, regardless of the situation."

Matt Withers had nine points and six rebounds. Reggie Robinson had seven assists to lead the 'Cats. Tremaine Dalton had 19 points to lead St. Mary (0-5).

Tappmeyer said he was pleased with Northwest shooting 64 percent in the first half, but not happy with only outscoring NAIA member St. Mary, 26-20, in the second half.

"Second half was just ugly," Tappmeyer said. "We just took a step backwards as far as trying to prepare for our conference opponent."

While preparing for Saturday's conference opener against defending champion Southwest Baptist, Northwest will look to shore up the injury situation. Higdon is nursing an ankle injury, while Andy Peterson is recovering from a sprained MCL.

On Tuesday Northwest moved up three spots to No. 20 in the NAC poll.

Tappmeyer said he is unsure if either player will be ready for the 7:30 p.m. tip-off in Bolivar, Mo., but did hint at the possibility of Peterson getting some minutes.

"To be honest, right now, maybe Andy (Peterson) might look like he's a little better shot of getting in there some than Dillon (Higdon would)," Tappmeyer said.

Henry said shooting will need to stay consistent from this point forward.

"It's definitely something we have to do...because you're not going to get a whole lot of open ones (shots) in MIAA play," Henry said.

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-NW FOOTBALL

Focus turns to Bloomsburg

Jerome Boettcher
Sports Editor

There's no hiding it.

A rematch with Grand Valley State sounds pretty nice to the Northwest football team and its fans.

However, there's one obstacle in the road. "Bloomsburg's in our way. As far as we are (in the playoffs) there's no sense in looking ahead," defensive end Ryan Waters said.

Bloomsburg's (Pa.) no-playoff rookie, Bloomsburg, Northwest's opponent Sunday in a Division II semifinal, has been to the national championship game once in school history under current coach Danny Hale in 2000.

"They're coming in here expecting to win, so we can't overlook Bloomsburg at all," running back Xavier Onion said.

Bloomsburg comes out of the Northeast region as a member of the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference. Bloomsburg defeated Shepherd (W. Va.) last week in the Northeast Regional final 24-21.

Before the game, Shepherd had the best defense in the nation and Bloomsburg finished the game with 429

total yards of offense.

"They're just going to be real solid, they're not going to do a lot of different things," Northwest coach Mel Tjeerdsma said. "They're going to be a fundamentally sound football team and execution will be to perfection, that's what they do."

On offense, running back Jamar Brittingham poses one of the biggest threats.

Brittingham, a Harlon Hill finalist a year ago, rushed for 171 yards on 33 carries against Shepherd. On the season, he averages 105.2 yards per game.

"They do some nice things with as far getting him out on the perimeter, it makes it a little harder to get a pass rush on him," Tjeerdsma said. "That's got to be a concern of ours, how much pressure we can get on him."

On defense, Bloomsburg has allowed just 16.5 points per game. A strong secondary anchors the Huskies as Tyler Tretin leads the team with five interceptions.

"They don't give up many big plays, they keep everything in front of them," Tjeerdsma said. "They're a little bit like Chadron in that respect. Their secondary, they're really good tacklers in the open field. They're

not going to miss a tackle."

Offensively for Northwest, execution has been addressed in practice. Though the Bearcats turned the ball over only once on Saturday against Chadron State, they fumbled the ball three times. Onion's fumble in the third quarter led to an Eagles touchdown and put Chadron State back in the game.

But Tjeerdsma said he's not worried about turnovers as he is penalties. Northwest was flagged eight times Saturday.

"We address that every week, we always talk about taking care of the ball," Tjeerdsma said. "Penalties, we had two personal foul penalties. I don't like those."

Injury wise Tjeerdsma said everyone who began the season as starters should play Sunday, besides LaRon Council, who broke his leg more than a month ago in the regular season.

Quarterback Josh Mathews will be playing with a deep bone bruise on his left leg. Mathews actually sat out part of the third quarter before he came back in Saturday against Chadron State because of the injury. Offensive lineman Joe Holtzclaw should be playing, as well though he was wearing a boot on his foot earlier in the week.



OFFENSIVE LINEMAN Gabe Frank makes a block on a Chadron State defender Saturday. Frank also played on the 1999 Class 5A State Championship team at Methylville High School in St. Louis.

—NW FOOTBALL

Lineman going for his second championship

Jared Verner
Missourian Reporter

Gabe Frank is used to playing championship football. The senior offensive lineman for the Bearcats was a sophomore member of the 1999 Class 5A State Championship team from Methylville High School in St. Louis.

He earned all-state, all-district, all-conference and all-metro honors on the offensive line by the time he graduated in 2002. Listed as one of the top-30 recruits in the St. Louis Metro area, he garnered interest from Southeast Missouri State and Missouri State, both NCAA Division I-AA programs.

But Frank's connection with Northwest began four years ear-

lier.

"I was flipping through channels when I happened to catch the [Division III] national championship game," Frank said. "The next year ... I was flipping through channels again and saw the same team just getting killed. I flipped it back on three hours later and they were going into the fourth overtime and I'm like 'Wow, this team is pretty good.'"

Frank signed with Northwest and red-shirted in 2002. But during his first three years of eligibility from 2003-05, he saw limited action, playing as a reserve in five games in each of the last two seasons.

This season, Frank earned a starting position at right guard. Since the season-opening game

against Minnesota State, he's started all but once and played in every game. In the depth charts for this weekend's semifinal game, he's also listed as the backup center.

"It was the last two years that really got him ready for this year," Adam Dorrel, offensive line coach said. "He upped his commitment level. He stayed here in Maryville for the summer. When I got here in 2004, he was playing too heavy and that affected his mobility. It's been a two-year thing that's gotten his ready to get to this point."

On being able to start on a national championship-contending team, Frank said, "It's surreal. You always want to do it but you're never sure what's going to happen.

And now it has happened."

Support from his parents has been there since day one. While some players are lucky to have parents make it to one game a year, Frank's parents have been making the trip from St. Louis every weekend.

The only game his father missed was in 2002 against Truman State.

"I enjoy it a lot," Frank said. "Especially during the year, I won't have to go back as much."

He and the rest of the Northwest squad will be under the lights on Sunday at Bearcat Stadium on the same family of TV networks where he first heard of Northwest.

Six days later, he may claim his second championship.

—NW WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

O'Grady leads way in victory

Senior makes 5 three-pointers in non-conference win

Cal Arnold
Assistant Sports Editor

Ten first-half three-pointers were all that was needed for the Northwest women's basketball team, Monday.

Senior Katie O'Grady shot 11-of-11 from the field, including 5-of-5 from three-point range, in the first 20 minutes of play against St. Mary's (Texas) to put the Bearcats up 44-28 at halftime. The "Cats ended the game with a 73-61 victory over the Raiders.

O'Grady led all scorers with 21 points, and also tallied four rebounds and three assists.

She said nothing "extraordinary" was done on her part to explain her historic night of shooting.

"I was on, and I don't really have an explanation for it," O'Grady said. "...I guess when the ball goes in, it goes in."

The ball seemed to be doing

the same for all the 'Cats. Meghan Bruce and Jessica Burton ended the game with three and two three-pointers, respectively, having two apiece during the first half.

The Raiders came alive during the second half, but did not have enough to make a complete comeback.

Northwest coach Gene Steinmeyer was pleased overall with his team's performance, despite being outscored in the second half.

"It just was a matter of we didn't shoot it as well (in the second half)," Steinmeyer said. "They outscored us by 18 the last 10, 12 minutes maybe, but it was our kids that got the 30 point lead in the first place."

Northwest's Mandi Schumacher and Burton came alive in the second half, each ended up scoring in double digits, with Schumacher leading the team in rebounds with eight.

The win gave the 'Cats a seven-game home winning streak to start the season, with an overall record of 7-1. The team starts MIAA play at 5:30 p.m., Dec. 9, at Southwest Baptist.

ESPN: Worldwide leader in sports showing up early Sunday

continued from B1

that's my electrical knowledge," Boerigter said. "Beyond that, I don't know anything. This is the way that this works."

ESPN producer Brian Carter will be producing the game and said he, too, is a little uneasy about getting to the game that early.

"To be honest, have a full day before the game to set up," Carter said. "...But we should be fine."

Carter said a television production company out of Tulsa, Okla., will provide the 35-40 crew members. The crew members are all freelancers and are from around the country.

Carter himself will be producing a Division I basketball game on Saturday night before in Columbus, Ohio between Ohio State and Cleveland State. As of Tuesday, Carter was still scrambling to find a flight ticket to Kansas City.

Unfortunately one of the downsides of ESPN's arrival is that lots of room will be taken up in the press box. Their talent will need one booth and those in charge of instant replay will also need a booth.

So, student radio station KZLX will not be able to broadcast on Sunday, though it is a home game. Sports information director Chad Waller said he tried everything he could to get KZLX a spot but there just wasn't enough room.

Waller even said he thought about putting KZLX on the roof but after reviewing it with maintenance workers and members of Environmental Services they decided not to. Waller said it was because of the possibility of inclement weather and safety hazards.

Dave Bales, sports director at KZLX, said that while it sad he won't be able to broadcast his last home game at Northwest, he understands

the circumstances. "I understand it...we've been through it before. Division I stadiums aren't really built for this much media," Bales said. "...There's nobody to blame. I know Chad did everything he could."

While Bales and radio partner Matt Moon—both seniors—have been through this before when traveling to cover road games KZLX usually has taken a backseat to the Bearcat Radio Network. If KZLX gets a spot—sometimes they can't—they are on occasion in a booth but also have been on roofs.

Bales said that he understands why the Bearcat Radio Network gets the upper edge because they have a wider region and can reach more people. KZLX's listening area, he said, "is a good day barely gets out of town." However, he said it still disappointing.

"That's just how student media goes," Bales said. "...It probably won't be the last time, it's just unfortunate."

The hardest thing to swallow for Bales is that Chadron State was the last Northwest home game he will ever cover.

"It hurts because our network can't cover it, it hurts because it is the semifinal game," Bales said. "On a personal level it hurts because Chadron State could have been our last game."

Overall, all those involved know that the final impact of a nationally-televised night playoff game in Maryville will leave a huge mark.

"Anytime national TV comes, it's good exposure for the town, that's a natural," Carter said. "People want to watch good, quality football especially when it's pure."

LIGHTS: Northwest will host first night game in nearly 30 years

continued from B1

He said the lights will be held up by trucks and that he doesn't think they will obstruct anybody's view.

The production of the lights differs a little bit from how they were put up in 1977. It will be the first time since Sept. 10, 1977, that Northwest has hosted a night game. The last time Bearcat Stadium had lights, Kirk Mathews, father of current Northwest quarterback Josh Matthews was quarterback.

Richard Flanagan was the athletic director at Northwest at the time and he remembers how ineffective the lights were.

"They were old then when they went down," Flanagan said. Flanagan said the steel structured lighting posts most likely went up in the 1930s, so they had been around for awhile when the University took them down after the 1977 season.

Flanagan said they were steel structured posts, with bulb lights at the top. The posts—about five on each side—were out in front of the bleachers, which obstructed some of the crowd's views.

"They were not very efficient," Flanagan said. "When you turned them on and played at night, there would be about the same amount of shadows as there were light posts. It wasn't a good situation at all."

Flanagan also said it was a hassle to replace the lights. He said it was hard finding someone that was actually willing to go to the top of the post and replace the lights.

"The administration decided instead of trying to replace them, to take them down and get them out of there," Flanagan said. "Because they were not efficient the way they were... I agreed with them wholeheartedly because I had to go up the post a few times to put in light bulbs."

Even the Maryville High School football team used the field to play night games but Flanagan said by the time the lights were taken down,

Maryville had gotten their own.

Flanagan credits the condition of the lights as the main reason for why they were taken down.

"At that time there was an energy crisis but I'm not for sure if that was a major factor, it was just another factor," Flanagan said. "Games were not efficient as far as lights were concerned. Sometimes if it rained or the wind blew it would break the bulbs, if there any moisture hit the bulbs it would break the bulbs."

Former coach at the time, and former Northwest athletic director, Jim Redd said the energy crisis along with the lights being very dim played a part in their removal.

"It was distressing at the time," said Redd, who is currently the athletic director at William Jewell College in Liberty, Mo. "They were very popular at the time, they got real good crowds."

Redd, who is responsible for hiring Tjeerdsma, said that a game like this will have a tremendous impact on the town.

He also said the night game atmosphere was "unique" and a game like this could see a push for lights in the future.

Boerigter said lights could be more than a year away. He said a big reason they don't have lights currently is because of priorities among football and other Northwest sports.

But nonetheless, Sunday will be a historic night for Northwest sports. "You can't measure that sort of impact," Redd said.

SPORTSBRIEFS

Younger Rectow signs contract

Former Rectow wide receiver Andre Rectow recently signed onto an Arena Football team.

The Spokane Shock, out of Spokane, Wash., announced the signing of Rectow Monday for their 2007 roster. Rectow's last season was in 2005 when he helped lead the team to the national championship game.

He set single-season records for yards (1,297), catches (97) and tied for third in touchdowns (17). He finished third at Northwest in receptions (213) and fourth in touchdown receptions (18).

He's currently sixth on the MIAA career list in yardage with 3,049 yards. Rectow's older brother, Jamaica, currently plays for the NFL's Dallas Cowboys.

—NW FOOTBALL

Waters 'motors' along

Cal Arnold
Assistant Sports Editor

Sometimes the quiet people are the ones who say the most. Such is the case for Northwest defensive end Ryan Waters.

The 6-3, 255-pound senior from Independence, Mo., doesn't do much talking, but he gets the job done on the field.

As a co-captain for the 2006 Bearcats, Waters broke the Northwest career sacks record with the win over Midwestern State on Nov. 25. He now stands at the top of the charts with 22.5 sacks, ahead of Erik Petersen with 21.5.

"He shows his leadership by what he does on the field," said fellow senior and co-captain Kyle Kaiser. "He's one of those guys who doesn't say too much to other people, but he leads by example and does a great job of doing that."

A good 'chuck'

When Chuck Litteras, Waters' former coach at Fort Osage, moved to Maryville, he informed the coaches at Northwest of the football player's skills.

While playing for Fort Osage, Waters played the positions of linebacker and tight end, neither of which Northwest head coach Mel Tjeerdsma could see him as at the college level. Litteras and the Northwest coaches, however, made plans to mold Waters into a defensive end.

"He (Litteras) really liked his motor, I mean, he plays hard," Tjeerdsma said. "That was one of the big factors (in recruiting)."

The fact that Waters earned all-district, all-metro, all-area and all-conference honors as a senior in 2002 also helped in the decision making.



NORTHWEST DEFENSIVE end Ryan Waters tries to get by an offensive lineman Saturday against Chadron State. Waters, in his career, as totaled 22.5 sacks, which is a school record. He set the record two weeks ago.

Making an early impact

After red-shirting his first season as a Bearcat, Waters notched 2.5 sacks during his first season of play, and saw action in 12 games as a sophomore as the reserve defensive end. The last two seasons have been spent as a starter for the 'Cats.

"Last year really helped me out, getting through the playoff run and everything, to put me where I'm at this year," Waters said.

While last year's playoff run was spent away from Bearcat Stadium, the comfort of having every game but the championship at home is there for Waters and the 'Cats.

"We came together as a team last year during the playoffs, but we've been playing together all year, which is what we need to get back to Alabama," Waters said.

Even with losing key players from last year's runner-up team, Waters said the team knew it would be fine this season with its returning players.

Getting through the conference schedule, which was done this season with a 9-9 record in the MIAA, was also a major step to getting back where the team is this season.

Working hard

Individually, Tjeerdsma believes Waters has progressed as a player thanks largely to the team's strength program. The hard work of learning to become a defensive end has paid off in the coach's eyes.

"He knew that if he wanted to play a lot he was going to have to be a defensive end," Tjeerdsma said. "He's done a lot of it on his own. He's developed himself and learned how to play the position."

Waters' quiet demeanor doesn't stop him from leading his team. While he doesn't say much, Tjeerdsma said when he does speak, everyone listens.

"The thing I really like about him is that he's taken the leadership thing real seriously," Tjeerdsma said. "He's worked at being a leader, he wants to be a good leader and he does whatever it takes to get that done."

Even if a return trip to Alabama is in the near future, Waters knows his career as a Bearcat is almost over. While a return trip to the national championship is on everyone's mind, the team tries to keep the thought out of its mind.

"You try not to, but it's hard not to when you're this close," Waters said. "You just have to take one game at a time because if we overlook these guys (Bloomburg), we lose."

Tjeerdsma knows he will be losing a winner in Waters, no matter how the season ends.

"Whatever you ask him to do, he does it," Tjeerdsma said. "That kind of example goes a long way."

—MHS BASKETBALL

Squad off to fast start

By Sam Robinson
Missourian Reporter

The Maryville High School boys' basketball team was the top dog last weekend.

The Maryville High School boys' basketball team is 2-0 after knocking off a pair of Bulldogs in Auburn (Neb.) and South Harrison respectively.

Tough defense and clutch free throw shooting gave the 'Hounds the advantage as they held on to defeat the Bulldogs 57-52 at Bethany Monday night.

Playing against a bigger South Harrison team, Maryville's scrappy first half defense helped them claw to a 30-24 lead going into the break.

"The defensive intensity that we played with kind of kept them from running their offense the way they liked to," assistant coach Ryan Tool said. "We weren't coming up with baskets as easily but we put a lot of pressure on them and created turnovers."

In the second half, Maryville picked up its offensive pace as junior Andy Walter, on his way to a 22-point night, ignited the charge and carried the team to a double-digit fourth quarter lead. But before Maryville could celebrate its second straight convincing victory, South Harrison rallied to cut the deficit to just a few points.

The comeback would stall there as the 'Hounds would sink some key free throws and hold on for the win.

Long time coach Mike Kuwizky was pleased to see his team hold on to the lead.

"They made a run at us and I think we got a little bit lackadaisical," Kuwizky said. "It was kind of tough but we made some big

free throws at the end and that was the difference."

Maryville opened their season Friday night in a packed gymnasium and treated their fans to a show.

After a sluggish first half, the 'Hounds stormed out of the locker room and turned a 33-31 nail-biter into a 71-56 rout.

Kuwizky attributes his team's second half surge to a big improvement on defense.

"I thought we played better defense than we did in the first half," Kuwizky said. "I think we were doing OK offensively in the first half, but defensively we struggled a little bit but I thought second half we did a lot better job on the defensive end."

The first half featured two dynamic performers leading their teams to a standoff in Maryville senior center John Hart and Auburn junior guard Trent Jones. Hart and Jones each had 11 points by halftime.

While the first half was tightly contested, the second turned into a Spoofhound showcase in front of their home crowd.

On the shoulders of Hart and senior forward Blake Jensen grabbing rebounds on nearly every offensive possession, Maryville opened the third quarter on a 9-2 run. Auburn would cut the lead to five near the end of the quarter, when a reserve 'Hound offered up the play of the game.

With seconds remaining in the period, junior Aaron Dueker received a pass on the right wing of the three-point arc and drilled a sent the gym into hysterics. Dueker was also fouled on the play and sank his free throw to complete the rare four-point play to put



MARYVILLE SENIOR John Hart drives to the basket against Auburn junior Trent Jones during the Maryville High School boys' basketball game Friday.

Maryville up 48-39.

"That was kind of a crowd pleaser," Kuwizky said. "It gave us a big lift and kind of pumped us up. He came in and gave us a big boost at that point."

The 'Hounds would use that momentum and mount an 18-5 run concluding with Hart doing his best Magic Johnson impression launching a full-court pass from the baseline to a streaking Adam Mattson whose lay-up put the team up 66-44.

Hart and Jensen would both finish with 16 points to lead the team. Kuwizky credited their seniors' dominant rebounding as one of the main reasons for the victory.

The 'Hounds travel to St. Joseph to take on LeBlond Friday night. The freshmen begin the night at 5:30 p.m. and the varsity boys tip-off at 8 p.m.

"It'll be a very tough game," Kuwizky said. "They're always very good and we've developed a little bit of a rivalry the last three years."

—MHS GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Sluggish start stifles 'Hounds

Scott Levine
Missourian Reporter

The Maryville High School girls' basketball team would like having the first quarter back during the last two games.

The Spoofhounds mustered six points during contests against Lafayette and South Harrison in the first quarter. Maryville was unable to overcome those deficits, as Lafayette defeated Maryville 37-19 Thursday, and South Harrison notched a 48-37 win, Monday.

Maryville head coach Grant Hageman said slow starts hurt his team during the past week.

"We started off slow and then had to play catch up the rest of the game," Hageman said about the South Harrison game. "We had some runs after the start and played a pretty good game after the first quarter."

After trailing 7-2 in the first quarter, against South Harrison, Maryville was able to develop more off-ense in the second stanza. The 'Hounds tied South Harrison 13-13 and headed into the halftime break down 20-15.

G. Still tallied two three-pointers en route to eighth second-quarter points, while Jaclyn Guess nailed five free throws.

"We have been up and down these first couple of games," Guess said. "In the first game, we weren't confident, but in the second game we were much more confident."

However, Maryville could not keep up with Kelsey Butler's scoring. Butler totaled 14 points in the first half and finished the fourth

quarter with 12 points for a game-high 26 points.

Jordan Gadois helped keep Butler scoreless, for the third quarter, but foul trouble propelled Butler to eight made free throws in the final quarter.

"(Butler) is a good player," Gadois said. "She has a nice shot and some good moves. I ended up fouling up at the end and that hurt the team."

Every game, I try to get better, and a player like that makes me better."

Maryville's Leah Wilmes poured in eight points as Gadois added six points.

It was the same story for the 'Hounds against Lafayette. Maryville trailed 10-4 after the first quarter and could not cut into the lead as Lafayette led 21-10 at the break.

The 'Hounds defense allowed four third quarter points, but the offense registered one basket as Lafayette came out victorious.

"We started down 8-4 at the start of the game and it was the same thing," Hageman said. "We fought back but used a lot of energy."

Hageman said Lafayette totaled over 40 more shots and that was too hard to overcome.

"You don't win too many games when a team shoots that many more times," Hageman said. "That puts a lot of pressure on the defense."

Gadois had six points and Guess tallied five points for the 'Hounds.

Maryville dropped to 0-3 overall and face LeBlond, at 5 p.m., today, at home.

TJEERDSMA TO BE PROFILED ON ABC

Northwest coach Mel Tjeerdsma will be honored Saturday on national TV.

Tjeerdsma is one of 10 finalists for the inaugural Liberty Mutual Coach of the Year Award.

He and the nine finalists will be featured in the hour long Liberty Mutual Coach of the Year Finalists Show Saturday. The show will begin at 1 p.m. (CST) and will be hosted by college football analysts Keith Jackson and Kirk Herbstreit.

Tjeerdsma, in his 13th year at Northwest, is one of two Division II coaches to be in the top 10.

Along with Tjeerdsma, Northwest's opponent for Sunday's semifinal Bloomburg, also has an honor. Danny Hale, Bloomburg's coach, is also an honoree.

Hale is in his 14th season at Bloomburg, and took the Huskies to the national championship game in 2000.

The winner of the award will be announced at 1 p.m., Dec. 16, on ABC.

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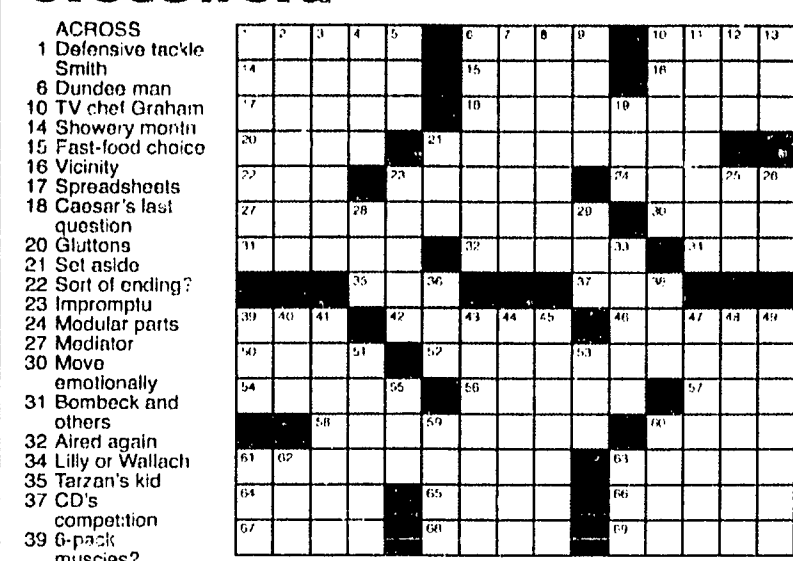
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5 Down: Nearby
6 Down: Spreadsheet
7 Down: Caesar's last question
8 Down: Gluttons
9 Down: Set aside
10 Down: Set of ending?
11 Down: Improvisation
12 Down: Modular parts
13 Down: Mediator
14 Down: Move
15 Down: Emotionally
16 Down: Bombeck and others
17 Down: Aired again
18 Down: Lily or Wallace
19 Down: Taz's kid
20 Down: CD's competition
21 Down: Bunch of muscies?
22 Down: Removes skin
23 Down: Puccini opera
24 Down: Condit
25 Down: Set of variables
26 Down: Nebraska city
27 Down: Call a chicken
28 Down: Baker's measure
29 Down: Counterattack
30 Down: Ditch of "Shakespeare in Love"
31 Down: Map for job?
32 Down: Office clerk
33 Down: Shelter a fugitive
34 Down: Exposed
35 Down: Take down a pig
36 Down: Whole groups
37 Down: Pub savings
38 Down: Lahr and Lince
39 Down: Quiet and stealthy

8 Across: Hallway moon
9 Across: Track maven
10 Across: Carpenter and Valerie
11 Across: Well-read
12 Across: Part of IRA
13 Across: "Norma"
14 Across: A/C measure
15 Across: Nav. leader
16 Across: Man of tables
17 Across: Up to, briefly
18 Across: Hindu title
19 Across: Taxi
20 Across: Cool
21 Across: Archibald
22 Across: Turnings
23 Across: Shill bark
24 Across: Young child
25 Across: Bother
26 Across: Tramp
27 Across: Rained the fridge too quickly
28 Across: Extreme
29 Across: Removal mark
30 Across: Mexican shawls
31 Across: Worldly

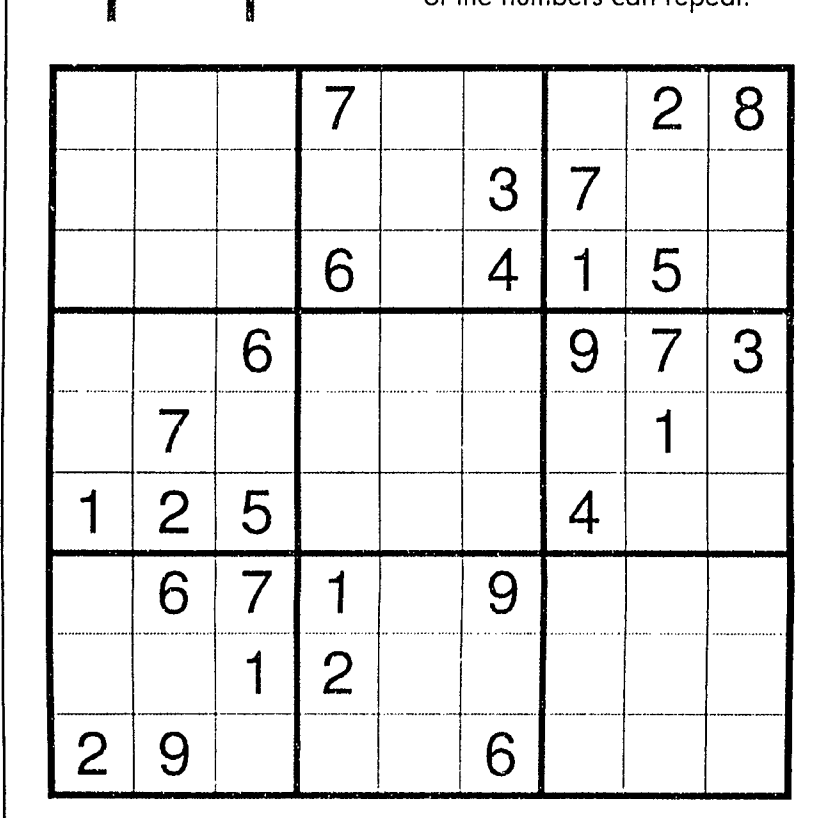
48 Across: Most tasteless
49 Across: Ambitious
50 Across: Larcenous
51 Across: Torma or Gibson
52 Across: Sliam
53 Across: Country diva
54 Across: Adjective for the Beatles

60 Across: Be in accord
61 Across: Ballplayer's hat
62 Across: Seller's SS
63 Across: Equivocation
64 Across: Adjective for the Beatles

Solutions

1 Down: Defensive tackle Smith
2 Down: TV chef Graham
3 Down: Showy morlin
4 Down: Fast-food choice
5 Down: Nearby
6 Down: Spreadsheet
7 Down: Caesar's last question
8 Down: Gluttons
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36 Down: Whole groups
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39 Down: Quiet and stealthy

Sudoku



Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 thru 9; none of the numbers can repeat.

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-STROLLER-

Your Man evaluates students

Psychology is my thing. I'm the Sigmund Freud of my world. Being so, I offer an insight into your average college student.

There are three basic types of college students—the try-hards, the try-nots and the complete wastes of skin.

The Try-Hards

By far my least favorite student, and to be perfectly honest, everyone's least favorite. You can see this student everywhere. Not because they're numerous, but because this person belongs to every group, organization and team known to man. But it's in the classroom where this air horn of annoying, this baron of ball busting, is most lethal.

With 20 minutes left in class Dr. So-n-So says:

"That's all I have... unless anybody has any questions?"

The answer is NO. Why would anyone have any questions? Wait, a hand just went up. Whose was it? The try-hard's.

"Yeah could you explain the protein-synthesis chain again please," a snile as large as their



The Stroller

ego all over their face.

Everyone in the class looks at this person like they are from another planet, which they are. I'm always wondering who will be the first to walk over to the try-hard's desk, pick him/her up by his/her well-done hair and hurl them out the window. At which point in my fantasy they would then turn to the professor and politely say:

"Nope, no questions Dr. So-n-So."

The Try-Not

These are my people. I'll analyze them briefly. This is the group that makes up most of the college population. Also known as the "Why go to class when I could be

ing instead?" group, this group has a good grasp on reality. They understand that there are

more important things than bias tests and arbitrary grades.

They've learned the golden rule.

Golden Rule: D's get degrees and if D's get degrees there is no reason to go to class and get a B. The Complete Wastes of Skin

This is a very fun group. They know the golden rule, too. The problem is they can't put the bottle down long enough to scratch a D... in racquetball. I often wonder how this group got to college in the first place. Don't get me wrong I'm glad they're here, but I don't see how at some point some one told them they belong in college. Maybe the conversation went a little something like this:

High school counselor: "Well I know you have a 1.53 GPA and you only got a 4 on your A.C.T., but I think you could make it in college."

Complete waste of skin: "Really? Sweet! Is weed legal in college?"

The Stroller has been a tradition since 1918 and does not reflect the views of The Northwest Missourian.

-HOLIDAY

Only you can prevent Christmas tree fires

Megan Heuer
Missourian Reporter

As boxes of shiny ornaments and tangled lights are hauled up from the basement to decorate the tree, there are several holiday tips to remember.

In 2005, there were 32.8 million real trees purchased and an additional 9.3 million artificial trees, according to the National Christmas Tree Association. Because most trees are pre-cut, several problems may arise.

Maryville Fire Department Lt. Phil Rickabaugh said there are easy tasks that make having a real tree safer this holiday season.

"Most of all make sure to properly maintain the tree and keep it watered," Rickabaugh said.

By cutting two inches off the trunk of a pre-cut tree immediately after getting it home, Rickabaugh said it allows a fresh base that better absorbs water. A large tree

stand with room for at least a gallon of water is also necessary to maintain a moist and safe tree.

The lights need to be inspected to make sure there are no shorts or damaged bulbs, Rickabaugh said. Also, if new lights are needed check the labels on the boxes for the UL listing, which means it has been tested for fire safety.

In the 20 years Rickabaugh has been a part of the Maryville Fire Department, he said he has seen one fire caused from a Christmas tree. However, there are 200 fires nationally each year, according to the U.S. Fire Administration.

After the last gift is unwrapped and the ornaments all packed neatly away in their tubs, the tree can be recycled properly. To locate the nearest recycling program log on to Realchristmastree.org or call 1-800-CLEANUP.

"As always, the No. 1 thing for fire safety is working smoke detectors," Rickabaugh said.

Tree Tidbits

■ Each year between 30 and 35 million real Christmas trees are sold in the United States.

■ More than 500,000 acres are set aside for growing Christmas trees.

■ One acre of tree-growing property provides daily oxygen requirements for 18 people.

■ Call 1-800-CLEANUP or visit Realchristmastree.org for a recycling program near you.

■ For Christmas tree personality quiz visit ChristmasTree.org.

Christmas tree farms within 60 miles of Maryville

■ Schweizer Orchards Pine Meadow Tree Farm
27 miles: Savannah, (816) 324-5870
■ Pine Tree Acres
43 miles: Robinson, Kan., (785) 544-6818
■ Shearer Tree Farm
50 miles: Corning, Iowa, (641) 322-4736

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What's your horoscope?

Today's Birthday (12-09-06)

You're so charming this year; you'll talk yourself into all sorts of great things. Most of these adventures will turn out well, so follow your heart.

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

Aries (March 21-April 19)

Today is a 10 — Beat your best time. Catch a bigger fish. Do everything better than ever. It's even a good time to launch yourself on a cruise around the world. Or go to the moon. Somebody's got to do it.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Today is a 6 — You love your family, Heaven knows, but don't let them push you around. Listen to what they think is best for them, and then you decide.

Gemini (May 21-June 21)

Today is an 8 — Be confident even though you know you're still in the learning process. Your intelligent, cheerful inquisitiveness is opening important doors.

Cancer (June 22-July 22)

Today is a 6 — It's annoying to be stuck in the same old routine over the weekend. Think about the wealth you're accruing and you'll have a lot more fun.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)

Today is a 10 — You're very lucky now, and brilliant and assertive. This day could go down in history as one of your best.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Today is a 5 — Your home continues to be at the heart of the celebration. Allow the guests to help with the clean up, too. Don't keep it all for yourself.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Today is an 8 — Recent questions to you have inspired a search of the evidence. Your curiosity has been aroused. This is good, because there's a lot of digging to be done.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Today is a 6 — You don't seem to have won the lottery, although that's possible. The charts continue to indicate enormous wealth coming in. The distribution is up to you.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Today is a 9 — Love is the most important means of exchange in the whole world. Give away as much as you can, and you'll receive even more.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

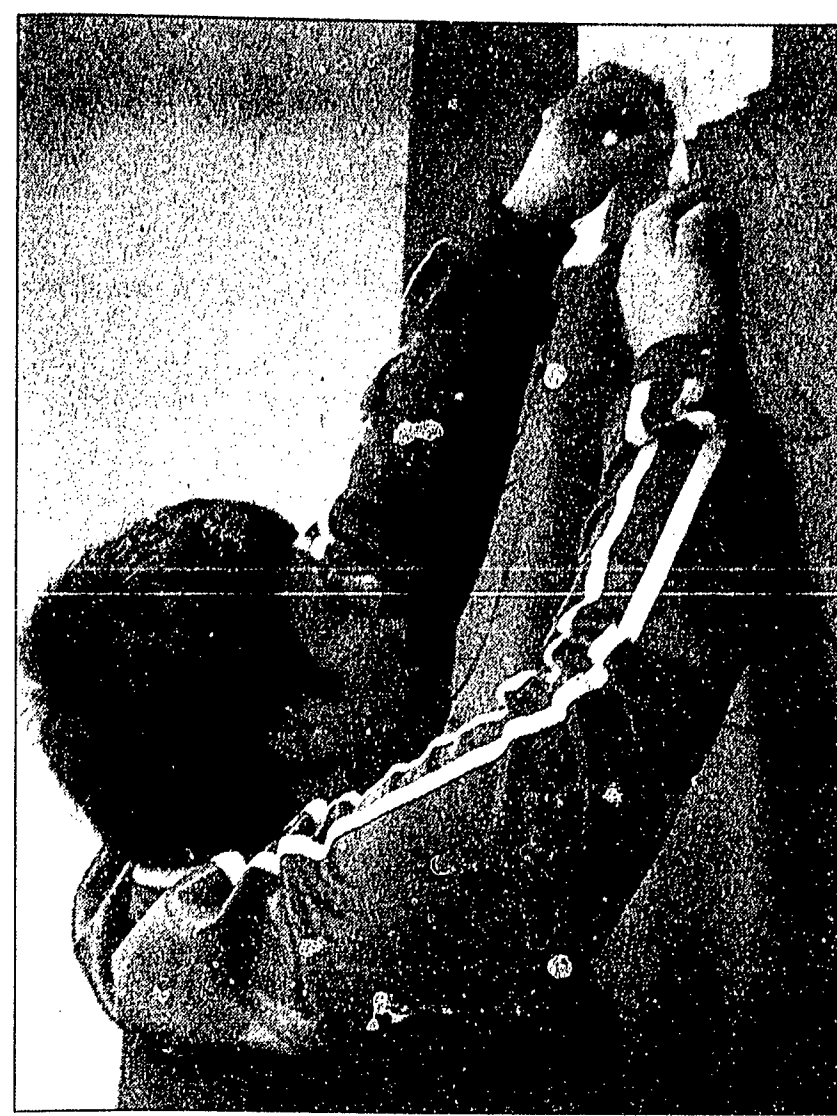
Today is a 7 — Behind the scenes is where the best deals, so pay attention. Offer to do a favor for somebody who has something you want.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Today is an 8 — Conditions are perfect for making new friends. Don't worry for a minute, even if they're kind of different. They'll like you for yourself.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)

Today is a 6 — Continue through the weekend, checking things off your lists. You're making a good impression and you're getting an awful lot done.



FRESHMAN SHANE SHERWOOD places a key on Northwest Peer Education's promise tree Wednesday in the J.W. Jones Student Union. Students pledged to use a designated driver during the holiday season.



SOPHOMORE MEGAN Walker takes advantage of the free stress relief items for finals week offered by Peer Education.

Students urged to have safe holiday break

Lindsay Jacobs
Chief Reporter

Students received a sobering reminder Wednesday.

Peer Education put up a promise tree in the J.W. Jones Student Union to encourage students to designate a driver before celebrating this holiday season.

Peer Education is a group on campus who educates students on making healthy choices.

Students signed paper keys that were placed on a promise tree to pledge designating a driver for the holiday season.

The group got the idea for this program from The Bacchus Network, said Nathan Marquiss, graduate assistant for Peer Education.

The network focuses on comprehensive health and safety for universities and communities.

"The main reason that we're doing it is to help promise students and staff to have a healthy and safe break, and to make responsible choices while they're on break," Marquiss said.

In Maryville, students are used to going out and being able to walk home. With that in mind, Marquiss said, students may go out in a big-

ger city and may forget walking isn't an option.

As a result, they may forget to designate a driver ahead of time. Freshman Christina Ewing signed a key. She said it's important to designate a driver because it can prevent ruining people's lives.

"I think it's really important for friends to look out for each other," Ewing said. "Because we don't want innocent people getting hurt."

Freshman Jessie Benson who also signed a key said she thought the program was an effective way of reminding people to designate a sober driver.

"I feel like it's really important to have a sober driver to be safe so nothing bad happens," Benson said.

Although the promise tree served as a reminder to designate a driver during the holidays, Marquiss said it was also a reminder for any time of year.

The group also handed out information on signs of depression and how to have a safe break. They also handed out stress relief items for finals week.

Anyone is interested in joining Peer Education should contact the Health Center at 562-1348.

Holidays bring opportunities for volunteering

Jenna Karel, Whitney Keyes
Missourian Reporters

The holiday season presents Northwest organizations with numerous opportunities to give back to the community.

Many students and organizations raise money or collect items to donate to local charities or area families that are in need. Between the Horace Mann Laboratory School and the Residence Hall Association, five Nodaway County

year. President Kara Montgomery got the idea from a similar project she had done in the past with her youth group. She thought it would work well on a college campus.

By placing Christmas wrapped donation boxes in the residence halls and offering a \$50 prize to the hall that raises the most money, RHA hopes to encourage students to participate in the fundraising. RHA has also decided to match the amount donated by students as their contribution to the project.

Montgomery hopes this tradition of giving will be one that RHA continues even after she is gone.

"I think it is a very good way to give back to the community and help a family out that might otherwise not have a Christmas," she said.

Other organizations getting involved with the charitable aspect of the holiday include Campus Crusade for Christ and Christian sorority Gamma Alpha Lambda. These two groups both worked

with Operation Christmas Child, a project in accordance with Samaritan's Purse. Samaritan's Purse is an international Christian relief organization, who has provided relief for several countries, and also helped with Katrina relief.

The goal of this project is to collect shoeboxes full of gifts to send to children in third world countries.

Gifts can include school supplies, candy, hygiene items and toys. Liquids, chocolate or breakables are among the items that are prohibited.

"The weirdest thing we found when checking the boxes was chocolate scented bubbles," said CRU and GALT member Ashley Volmert, who helped organize the event.

The bubbles, which could not be sent with the boxes, were one of just a few items Volmert had to pull out, since they could not be shipped overseas. These were then given to Calvary Chapel for their Christmas gifts.

Together, CRU and GALT collected 55 shoeboxes. These were then taken to Calvary Chapel—the drop-off spot for the region. Calvary then sent the boxes to Texas, where they will be double checked and sent off to third world countries. The last thing included in these boxes is the Gospel in the child's native language.

"Kids get excited about the boxes, and then there's stuff inside them too," Volmert said.

Between Operation Christmas Child, Angel Tree and the Holiday Program, kids from Maryville, to across the seas will have a brighter Christmas, thanks to some Bearcats.

For more opportunities to volunteer, contact Amy Nally at the Volunteer Center at 562-1954, or visit the volunteer-link on the Northwest Web site.

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Happy Holidays Vs. Merry Christmas

Angela Smith
Missourian Reporter

While it is important to be politically correct in St. Joseph by wishing "Happy Holidays," Maryville residents still wish a "Merry Christmas." Still, the name controversy surrounds stores, schools and even language.

"I feel like I understand the perspective of if they want to have people of all other belief systems feel welcome," said Emily Duggan, member of Campus Crusade for Christ. "But that's different from my personal beliefs that, you know, it is about Christ."

Across the nation, USA Today reported Federal Department Stores said in a statement they have "no policy" on Christmas. But, they noted that "Season's Greetings" and "Happy Holidays" embrace all religions and ethnic celebrations.

All over people are fighting whether to take "Christ" out of the season to be sensitive to others or to put it back in because of the Christian faith.

In Maryville, Christmas is still represented throughout department stores and government agencies. Wal-Mart customers can listen to Christmas carols while shopping at the "Christmas Shop," where they can purchase Christmas items like trees, decorations and gifts. In addition, the courthouse on the town square is lined with white lights and inside decorated with Christmas trees.

Still, it remains a subject difficult to control. However, it's not something to fight about, said Campus Crusade for Christ member Adam Hance.

"The people who disagree with you are never going to agree with you," Hance said. "So, I think there needs to be more understanding between people who don't see eye to eye. I think that's where this is all coming from."

Upcoming holiday events

Dec. 10
■ Maryville First Christian Church Concert, 10:25 a.m.
Dec. 11
■ Maryville Middle School 7th grade band and vocal concert, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 14
■ Maryville Middle School 5th and 6th grade band and vocal concert, 1:30 p.m.
■ Maryville Middle School 8th grade band and vocal concert, 6:30 p.m.
Dec. 17
■ Maryville Community of Faith Children's Program: "Angels Aware," 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
■ Maryville Church of the Nazarene Youth play: "Celebrate the Gift," 10:45 a.m.
Dec. 18
■ Maryville High School Band Christmas Concert, 7 p.m., Charles Johnson Theatre on Northwest campus
Dec. 19
■ Maryville High School Choir Winter Concert, 7 p.m., Mary Linn Performance Arts Center
Dec. 20
■ Ravenwood Christian Church Caroling, 6:30 p.m.
Dec. 24
■ Ravenwood Methodist Church Christmas Eve Service, 11:00 a.m.
■ Maryville First Baptist Church Christmas Eve Service, 7:30 p.m.
■ Maryville First Christian Church Christmas Eve Service at 10:25 a.m., Candlelight services at 7 p.m. and 10 p.m.
Dec. 25
■ Ravenwood Christian Church musical: "Coming Home From Christmas," 10:30 a.m.
■ Ravenwood Christian Church Christmas Service, 6:30 p.m.
Dec. 31
■ Maryville First Baptist Church New Year's Eve Service, 6:30 p.m.

Admission for all events is free. Events take place at the churches and schools listed, unless otherwise noted.

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